Sojourn In Savannah

An official guidebook and map of Historic Savannah and the surrounding countryside

by

Savannah Visitors Service

Sojourn In Savannah

AN OFFICIAL GUIDEBOOK AND MAP OF SAVANNAH AND THE SURROUNDING COUNTRYSIDE

by Betty Rauers, Terry Victor, and Franklin Traub
of Savannah Visitors Service

Published in memory of Terry S. Victor

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1968, 1971

COVER DRAWING: Jack Daniel Zarem, whose waterfront scene so provocatively links Savannah's past with the present, is one of the few native-born artists to have been honored with a one-man show at the Telfair Academy of Arts and Sciences. Noted nationally for his oil sketches and drawings, Mr. Zarem, a business executive, resides in New York.

THE OLD HARBOR LIGHT

—Drawing by Christopher Murphy

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—Drawing by Ray Dilley

OGLETHORPE MONUMENT

Introductory Sentences

by Anita Raskin

Cities are like people. Some are brash young fellows, lusty and loud, with rawbones jutting and sleeves too short.

Some are callow shallow hussies, all giggles and flirt and furbelows.

Savannah is a Lady.

A Lady is gracious, a thoughtful gentlewoman who keeps her treasures polished for the pleasure of her guests. Enjoy her jewel-like parks and squares, her prize collection of heirloom oaks, her matchless muster of 18th and 19th century houses.

A Lady is a hostess who sets a tempting table, with many good dishes from the old receipt book her great great grandmother wrote by hand.

A Lady never shouts. Savannah speaks in a soft southern murmur. Listen closely — she has marvelous memories to share.

Paris and London are her sisters under the skin. They share those qualities, so rare in America, of historical richness, architectural excellence, and the witty worldliness that comes of being a Lady With a Past.

Savannah is America's Mona Lisa. Gaze your fill, look all you will. (For once it's quite polite to stare.) You may never fathom the secret of her smile, but like those who love and live with her, you will know the endless rich rewards of trying.

Savannah—Georgia's port city

BY KENNETH COLEMAN

Savannah, Georgia's port city, was founded by James Oglethorpe and the original settlers who arrived in Georgia on February 12, 1733. Oglethorpe and nineteen associates had received a charter creating them "Trustees for establishing the colony of Georgia in America"; the motives for the grant were to aid worthy poor in England, to strengthen the Colonies and increase imperial trade and navigation, and to provide a buffer for Carolina against Spanish Florida.

The city was laid out in a distinctive pattern at Yamacraw Bluff, some fifteen miles above the mouth of the Savannah River. The original building lots were sixty by ninety feet, fronting on a street and backing up an alley which ran through the center of the block. A 1736 description of the city says, "Savannah . . . is about a mile and a quarter in circumference; it stands upon the flat of a hill, the bank of the river (which they in barbarous English call a bluff) is steep and about forty-five foot perpendicular, . . . there being a very wide stand between the first row of houses and the river . . . The town . . . is built of wood . . . the lots are fenced in with split pales . . . Their houses are built at a pretty large distance from one another, for fear of fire; the streets are very wide, and there are great squares left at proper distances, for markets and other conveniences. Near the river side there is a guard house inclosed with palisades a foot thick."

Beyond the city area were five-acre garden lots for each family, and beyond these, forty-five-acre farm lots. This plan of the Georgia Trustees for settling the colony was carried out only at Savannah, and even there it soon began to give way to individual preference. It was abandoned in the 1750's. Yet as the city expanded in the nineteenth century, the original plan of streets, alleys, and squares was adhered to for a considerable time, giving Savannah a more distinctive appearance than most American cities possess.

A part of the Trustees' plan for making Georgia a colony to produce silk, wine, and other items desired in the British Empire was the Trustees' Garden, on the edge of the town, part of it on the sandy bluff and part of it in the richer swampy lowlands below the bluff.

Savannah grew rather slowly until after the departure of the Spanish from Florida in 1763. By the time of the Revolution Georgia had about 35,000 people and Savannah between 2,000 and 2,500. In the last fifteen years of the colonial period, Savannah's export business increased considerably, reflecting an increase in farming, lumbering, and Indian trade.

In the colonial period, artisans of all sorts were scarce and many of these were poorly trained. In 1767 James Habersham complained to a London friend that he could not get decent clothing made by Savannah tailors. The small population simply did not attract the best craftsman, and most manufactured goods were imported from England. The prosperous agrarian economy and firmly established trade routes continued to encourage the importation of finished products and manufactured articles after the Revolution. Lacking a

Panoramic View of Savannah, 1837, by Firmin Cerveau

well-founded tradition of training in the arts and crafts, Savannah always relied more on outside sources, foreign and domestic, than on local artisans.

Savannah lost its political importance to the rapidly growing upcountry with the removal of the capital to Augusta in 1786, but its significance as a port and trade center was increased. Rice, naval stores, and lumber continued as major exports, and the great new item in Georgia's economy was cotton.

When Washington visited Savannah in 1791 he commented more on the beauty of the women than on that of the city, but the nineteenth-century city came to be totally different from the eighteenth-century original, except for the plan of the streets and squares. Military action during the Revolutionary War and devastating fires in 1796 and 1820 destroyed many colonial buildings which had been almost entirely of wood, but replacement was promptly undertaken. An improvement begun about 1800 was the planting of pride-of-China trees along the streets and squares to beautify the city and provide much-needed shade. During the War of 1812 volunteer companies were formed, militia units marched off hoping to capture St. Augustine, and defenses were thrown up around the city; but fortunately no enemy appeared to test the defenses or to damage the city.

In 1819 President James Monroe visited Savannah on his tour of the Southern states, and a high point of his visit was his ride on the steamship *Savannah*. This vessel, owned by Savannahians, was soon to make the first trip across the Atlantic partially propelled by steam. While in Savannah, Monroe attended the dedicatory service in the new Independent Presbyterian Church. He may well have used some of the ice first imported into Savannah that summer and advertised for sale at 6¼c a pound.

To a city of such glories, the great fire of January 1820 was a catastrophe. The old section between Broughton and Bay Streets was completely wiped out, with some 463 buildings burned. Hardly had the ashes cooled when a disastrous yellow fever epidemic struck in April. By the time the worst was over five months later 695 deaths had been reported and almost 6,000 of the city's population of 7,528 had temporarily evacuated the area.

By 1825, however, when Lafayette visited Savannah, the city had recovered and rebuilt sufficiently to give him a gala welcome. And on February 12, 1833, the centennial of Georgia and Savannah, the occasion was celebrated with military parades, orations, odes, and other observances, followed by a brilliant ball in the evening.

As upper Georgia developed, better internal transportation was badly needed to aid Savannah's port business. The Savannah River had always served as a highway into the eastern part of the state, and the coming of steamboats around 1815 gave a boost to port and river traffic. But contacts with other areas were needed. In the 1820's there was considerable agitation to build turnpikes and canals. A canal was planned to connect the Savannah and Altamaha Rivers

and make Savannah the port for much of central Georgia, but construction was abandoned after the Ogeechee River was reached in the early 1830's. This canal had little effect on port business and was soon supplanted by railroads.

The Central of Georgia Railroad was conceived and built by Savannahians, the original survey in 1834 undertaken at the expense of the city government. Building was completed to Macon in 1843, with the Savannah government purchasing 5,000 shares of stock. Then construction to Atlanta was achieved with the aid of a Savannah bond issue. In the 1850's Savannah led in the move to build a railroad into the southwestern part of the state. Connecting the rich farmland of middle Georgia with Savannah, the Central became the state's leading railroad. Cotton exports increased from 137,257 bales in 1825 to 284,249 in 1840, to 388,375 in 1855, and to 469,653 in 1859. Other exports also rose.

Savannah was Georgia's first banking center: a branch of the Second Bank of the United States opened there in 1817. The Central Railroad Banking Company, established in conjunction with the railroad in 1836, became a leading bank, and there were several others. Savannah was also the major manufacturing center in Georgia, producing $2,000,000 worth of goods annually by 1860.

As a part of its coastal defense plan, between 1830 and 1845 the United States built Fort Pulaski on Cockspur Island below Savannah at the mouth of the river.

After the Revolutionary War, Savannah, like the rest of Georgia, witnessed the growth of the Baptist and Methodist churches. Both groups began holding services in Savannah before 1800, and the Baptists had already built their first church. The Independent Presbyterian Church erected a fine new building in 1817-1819, and in the 1830's and 1840's the Methodists, Baptists, Lutherans, Episcopalians, Roman Catholics, and Jews built new structures. The First African Baptist Church, organized in 1788, erected a brick building in the 1850's.

In the field of education, ante-bellum Savannah was less active than in that of religion. Though the Chatham Academy was organized in 1788 under state law it became in essence a private school. There were other private schools of varying sorts; St. Vincent de Paul Academy, begun by the Sisters of Mercy in 1844, was the leading Roman Catholic school. The Savannah Library Society, dating from 1809, struggled along for many years before it combined with the Georgia Historical Society in 1847. The latter had been organized in 1839 and immediately began collecting books and manuscripts. Savannah possessed several outstanding newspapers: the *Georgia Gazette* (established in 1763), the *Columbian Museum & Savannah Advertiser* (1796), the *Georgia Republican* (1802), the *Georgian* (1818), and the *Morning News* (1850).

Fraternal and benevolent societies had begun in colonial Georgi with the Bethesda Orphanage, the Union Society, St. Andrew's So

ciety, Solomon's Lodge, and others. These organizations continued or were revived in the nineteenth century, and more were added, including the Jewish and Irish associations. Hospital facilities, usually with some public support, existed for both townspeople and sailors through most of the nineteenth century.

A matter of considerable consequence to public health was the elimination of wet rice culture near the city in the 1820's and '30's. The city, the state, and the Georgia Medical Society all co-operated in this move, which apparently did lessen the number of fever cases, though in 1854 there was a major yellow fever epidemic which took as many as two hundred lives in a week.

Savannah had several short-lived literary magazines in the nineteenth century, but its greatest literary and historical ornament was the library of Georgia books, pamphlets, and manuscripts collected by George Wymberley Jones DeRenne (1827-1880). DeRenne also published four Wormsloe Quartos—the first printing of manuscript documents and the reprinting of rare works on Georgia history in limited deluxe editions of quarto size. Though the original DeRenne Library was scattered by Union troops in 1864, it furnished the inspiration for the much greater Georgia collection of DeRenne's son, Wymberley Jones DeRenne (1853-1916), which is now at the University of Georgia.

Civic pride and new and more adequate facilities made Savannah a fine city of more than 15,000 by the 1850's, double the population of only two decades before. A new city waterworks provided river water to replace that of wells and cisterns. A new gasworks made possible the replacement of the old oil street lamps with modern gas lamps. The harbor and river were greatly improved with appropriations from the national and city governments. Badly needed dredging and removal of wrecks obstructing the channel since the Revolutionary War were carried out, making the approaches to the city wharves better than ever before. Handsome homes and public buildings were erected, the squares were beautified with monuments, a large park was laid out. The Savannah Theatre, built thirty years before, was still impressive and played host to many of the leading actors of the day.

William Makepeace Thackeray in 1855 described Savannah as "a tranquil old city, wide-streeted, tree-planted, with a few cows and carriages toiling through the sandy road, a few happy negroes sauntering here and there, a red river with a tranquil little fleet of merchantmen taking in cargo, and tranquil warehouses barricaded with packs of cotton, no tearing Northern hustle, no ceaseless hotel racket, no crowds." Within a decade war had destroyed much of the old civilization—though not nearly so much of the city's architectural distinction as has "modern progress" since.

Mr. Coleman, professor of history at the University of Georgia, is the co-author of Georgia Journeys.

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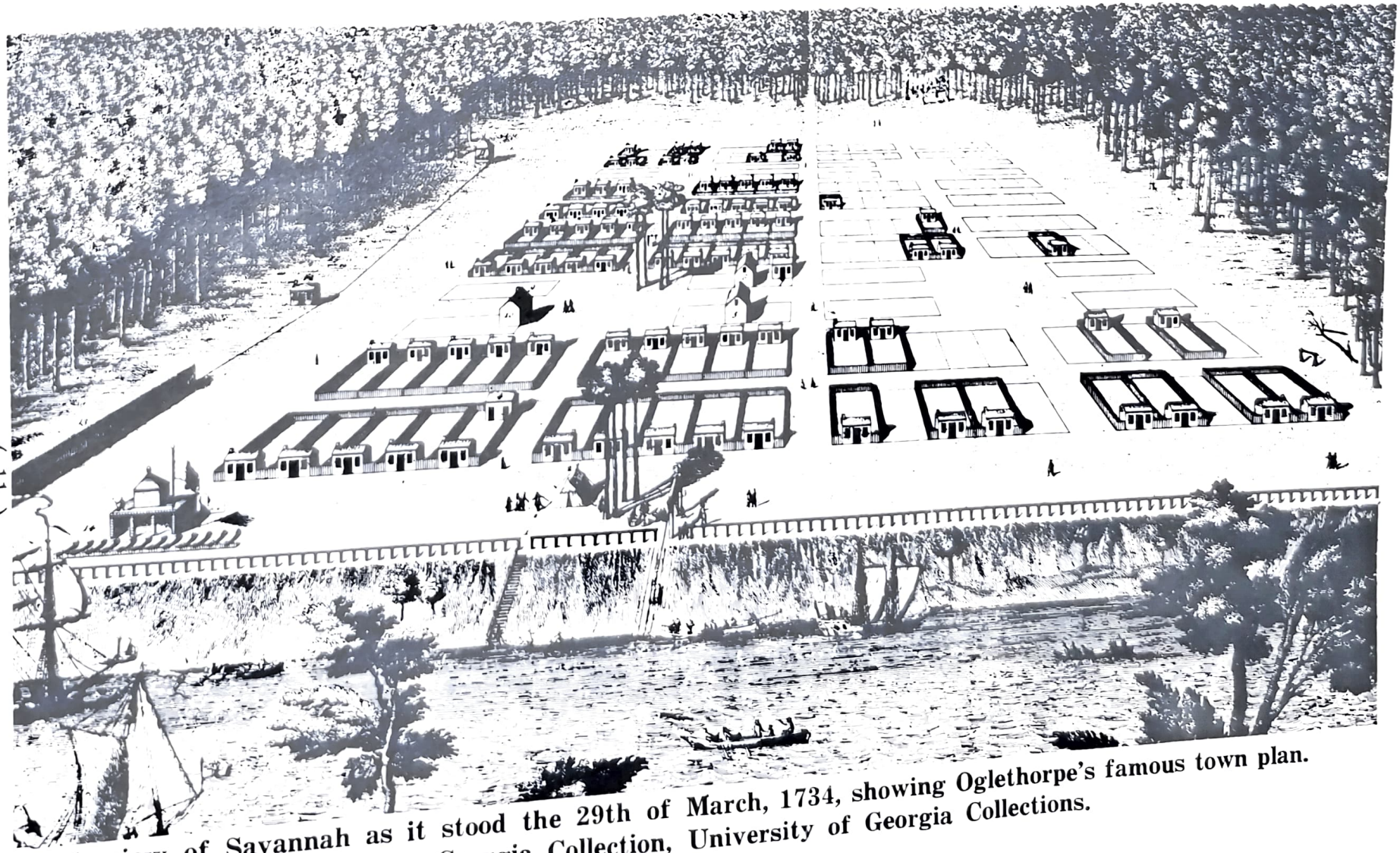

A view of Savannah as it stood the 29th of March, 1734, showing Oglethorpe's famous town plan. Wymberly Jones DeRenne Georgia Collection, University of Georgia Collections.

—Painting by Willem Verelst

"TOMO-CHI-CHI, MICO OF YAMACRAW AND TOONAHOWIE, HIS NEPHEW, SON OF THE MICO OF THE ETCHITAS"

Of dramatic importance to the future of the new colony was the auspicious meeting of James Edward Oglethorpe, leader of the colony, and Tomo-Chi-Chi, Mico of Yamacraws. Pledging his personal friendship and that of his immediate tribe, Tomo-Chi-Chi cheerfully granted the colonists permission to settle undisturbed on the spot selected by Oglethorpe for the town of Savannah. As a by-product of the firm friendship which developed between these two aristocrats of such diverse cultures, Savannah flourished unhindered by the terror and warfare which clouded the beginnings of so many of America's early colonies.

Architectural trends in Savannah

BY WALTER CHARLTON HARTRIDGE

The buildings

During the years that have passed since Oglethorpe marked off its first streets and squares in 1733, Savannah has developed into a city of architectural distinction. Fine examples of a number of styles, especially the Regency and the Greek revival, were designed by architects of national reputation, and beside them were placed buildings that reflect a vigorous local tradition. All are shown to advantage by Oglethorpe's imaginative town plan with its sequence of squares, straight avenues, and orderly arrangement of lots.

Savannah's first buildings were the work of carpenters and joiners who had come out with Oglethorpe. These houses were all alike, of wood, one story high, measuring sixteen by twenty-two feet (see map, on page 11)—suitable habitations for colonists beginning life in the New World on the terms of equality prescribed by the Charter of Georgia. This house plan, with few changes, was carried far into the next century.

But colonial officials did not entrust the design of public buildings to Savannahians. Plans for the church were sent from England by Henry Flitcroft, a member of the Board of Works, who had built several London parish churches. Those for the Orphan House of Bethesda were supplied by an English draftsman known to posterity only as Mr. Day. Bethesda's founder, the evangelist George Whitefield, successfully wrestled with the difficulties involved in executing his ambitious scheme in a primitive colony. Completed in 1742, the Orphan House remained throughout the colonial period Georgia's most imposing structure, a high-roofed building with a colonnaded piazza which Whitefield described as "wonderfully convenient in the Heat of Summer."

After the Revolution Savannah entered into a period of prosperity and rapid growth. On a plantation outside the town Eli Whitney invented a cotton gin that made practical the large-scale cultivation of cotton; and with cotton enthroned as king in the back country Savannah became a great port. Leadership passed from idealists like Oglethorpe and Whitefield to a vigorous group of merchants from England, Scotland, and the Northern states. These newcomers scorned the simple dwellings that had survived from colonial days,

and called upon the local builders to house them in suitable style. The Savannah mechanics were handicapped by the lack of a sophisticated tradition but, working from books of design, they built several handsome houses that compared favorably with those of experienced architects in the older colonies. The only building that survives from this time is the residence of James Habersham, Jr., called the Pink House (see page 38).

In 1796 two-thirds of Savannah was destroyed by fire; and as news of the disaster spread, builders set out from the North and Europe to help rebuild the town. The influence of artisans from New York is evident throughout the older sections of Savannah, in stoops and dormer windows, while gambrel roofs (see page 34), characteristic of Rhode Island, and light porticoes derived from Bulfinch attest the activities of New England builders.

Now for the first time a man who styled himself architect took up residence in Savannah. In 1797 Adrian Boucher, one of that numerous body of refugees from the French Revolution whose cultivated tastes enriched so many aspects of American life, moved from New York, where he had worked for several years, and offered to "undertake all kinds of Building, as Water Machines, Houses, in Timber or Masonry, in the manner the most elegant and strong." During the next decade Boucher never lacked for work. He planned the Exchange, which succeeded Mr. Day's Orphan House as the largest building in Georgia, the second edifice of Christ Church, and several houses for merchants.

When Boucher left Savannah, as the result of an altercation with the city fathers over his right to receive free Negroes in the ballroom of his house, the Savannah master builders came once more into their own. Having banded together for professional and social purposes into the Savannah Mechanics Association, they took great strides under the leadership of John H. Ash, a Savannahian born and trained, and Isaiah Davenport, a New Englander who had come south after completing his apprenticeship as a builder. These two men built a number of brick houses in the late Georgian and Federal styles, with high basements necessitated by Savannah's sandy, unpaved streets.

But Savannahians were still reluctant to entrust the local workmen with important commissions. In 1816 the congregation of the Independent Presbyterian Church, the wealthiest in Georgia, with $120,000 to expend on a new meetinghouse, offered a premium to architects throughout the country for the best plan. They chose one submitted by John Holden Greene of Rhode Island. Greene, borrowing from Gibbs and Bulfinch and adding deft touches of his own, designed and built for them a church that ranked among the finest American buildings of its day. Completely destroyed by fire in 1889, the structure was replaced by a building that is a duplicate of the original one. (See page 43.)

In 1817 the cotton merchants, now in their heyday, brought a talented young English architect, William Jay, from London to Savannah and plied him with commissions. Among the half-dozen houses he built—referred to as "little palaces" by the exiled Prince of Naples, Achille Murat—were the Owens-Thomas (see page 78) and the oldest part of the Telfair (see page 42). These and a theater, a school, a bank, a pavilion erected in one of Savannah's squares in which to entertain President Monroe, and possibly a hotel showed Jay's ability to handle Regency forms in a highly individual manner. Under his hand Savannah was turned into the "Southern Paradise" that one enthusiastic resident described, with stuccoed houses "as yellow as my letter, with elegant columns and balustrades, with Drawing Rooms full of Golden Eagles holding up Damask coloured curtains."

In 1820 Savannah was again visited by fire. Jay tried to persuade the merchants to build fireproof stores and houses of his design, but a severe epidemic of yellow fever that year thinned their ranks and a nationwide depression threw many survivors into bankruptcy. Calling Savannah "a Niobe of cities," Jay left for Charleston in search of clients, and in 1824 he returned to England. Hard times lasted into the 1830's. Visitors commented on the melancholy appearance of the town, and Savannahians who had come to take luxury for granted lamented the fate that had closed their theater and converted their sumptuous homes into boardinghouses.

When at length Savannahians constructed a railroad to the cotton fields of central Georgia the lean years were over. Savannah carpenters came forward with plans, welcomed by property owners, for tall row houses suited to the narrow lots that were part of Oglethorpe's legacy. These they built of the large porous bricks known as "Savannah grays" that were fired in kilns beside the Savannah River.

An Irish-born architect, Charles B. Cluskey, profited from Savannah's changed fortunes. In several public buildings of his design in middle Georgia Cluskey had shown himself to be a forceful exponent of the Greek revival style. His reputation was sustained by the varied work he undertook between 1838 and 1847 in Savannah: arched stores built against the river's Yamacraw Bluff, single and paired houses fronting on the squares, a convent which, in his own words, embodied "the principles of Catholic ecclesiastical architecture" and a town mansion (see page 82) for Aaron Champion, merchant and banker. This house later passed by marriage into the McAlpin family, who had grown rich in the manufacture of cast iron and Savannah-gray bricks.

With Cluskey's departure to Washington in 1847 to work on the Capitol, important commissions in Savannah were divided between two successors: John S. Norris, a New York architect who is remembered for his classical Custom House of 1848-1850, and for the

imposing residence he built for Andrew Low; and John B. Hogg, a South Carolinian who had studied under Thomas Ustick Walter in Philadelphia and worked in both the Greek and Gothic revival styles.

On the eve of the Civil War money, taste, and the skills of architects and workmen of differing traditions had made Savannah a "showy little city," as an English visitor called it. Oglethorpe's plan had been followed as the town spread over the flat land that extended back from the river. There were now twenty-four squares, eighteen having been added to the original six. The upper end of the town was hemmed in by a stand of ancient pines, and the City Council had set aside ten acres of them as a memorial to Savannah's renowned scholar of Near Eastern languages, William B. Hodgson. In 1857 the tract was transformed into an ornamental park by the Bavarian landscape architect Wilhelm Christian Bischoff, who had resigned his post of court gardener at Nymphenburg Palace and come to stay with his daughter, the wife of a Savannah physician. The streets remained unpaved and clouds of dust forced builders to make basements even higher than those of Ash and Davenport; but the squares had become wooded parks. Trees and buildings were brought to harmonious terms by Oglethorpe's town plan. This caused Fredrika Bremer, Swedish writer and feminist, a visitor of the 1850's, to exclaim: "Savannah is the most charming of cities . . . 'the maiden in the greenwood.'"

The broad outlook that Savannahians had acquired in their days of opulence did not survive into Reconstruction. Oglethorpe's plan was ignored in later extensions, architects of national repute sought no clients in Savannah, and even production of the local gray bricks came to an end when the last riverside kiln was closed in the 1880's. But in spite of the loss of many fine buildings Savannah still retains its character.

Architectural ironwork

Ironwork is Savannah's common denominator. The same scrolled designs appear in the squares—around monuments and fountains—and on the buildings which face them. Identical cast-iron balconies reconcile differing architectural styles: they are suspended from Greek revival mansions, Gothic villas, and Romanesque commercial structures. Stair railings and window brackets enliven flat surfaces of stucco or brick, and give a fanciful touch to the austere row houses. Iron storks served as newels, iron dolphins as waterspouts, and iron griffins as foot scrapers. An iron harbor light guides ships into port (see frontispiece) ; and an iron spire tops the Independent Presbyterian Church, Savannah's most notable building.

—Photo, courtesy of Historic Savannah Foundation, Inc.

10 WEST TAYLOR STREET

Ornamental ironwork was a latecomer to Savannah. There was no demand for railings and gates until the rebuilding of the town after the fire of 1796, when ships that came from England and the North for cargoes of rice and cotton brought in ballast ironwork for Savannah's new houses. In this way William Belcher obtained the delicate wrought-iron balcony that he placed before the Palladian window of his residence on Reynolds Square, and Isaiah Davenport a railing and scrolled central panel for the stoop of his house on another of Savannah's squares. Ornamental ironwork was an integral part of William Jay's designs. He had used it in London and Liverpool, and from Savannah he sent to England for the handsome cast-iron balcony of the Owens-Thomas house. After the fire of 1820 Jay urged Savannahians to rebuild with fireproof structures. Floor joists would be of iron, cast into two lengths, united and supported in the middle by arches. Roofs would have iron rafters, crossed by small iron rods, on which tiles would rest. Shutters and sash frames of iron would give protection against both burglars and fire. Jay announced that ironwork for these buildings could be supplied by Henry McAlpin, a Scotsman recently come to Savannah who had put up a foundry on his plantation, the Hermitage, a few miles above the city.

Jay left Savannah but McAlpin remained. Weathering some lean years, he rode to prosperity in the 1830's when the Central of Georgia Railroad was completed to Macon. From the Hermitage Foundry McAlpin supplied builders with a wide variety of items: "Elegant Railing to suit either inside or outside stairs, Balconies, or Platforms, and likewise for Tombs or Fences, Firebacks, etc."

McAlpin never enjoyed a monopoly of the Savannah market, for Northern foundries continued to send their products south. Through a local agent, Youle and Sabbaton of New York disposed of "Cast iron Doors and Frames for Stores and Dwelling Houses, also Window Frames and Shutters, *as handsome as wood,* and secure against fire." But McAlpin was able to undersell competitors, and his industrial enterprises brought him wealth and civic honors. On his death in 1851 the Hermitage Foundry was closed. Ironwork from the North

—Photo, courtesy of Historic Savannah Foundation, Inc.

423 and 425 BULL STREET

Ironwork forms an integral part of the design of these paired homes on Monterey Square, built in 1858 for the Reverend Charles W. Rogers, Presbyterian minister and rice planter. They are taller versions of houses still standing on the west side of Gramercy Park, New York, which date from a previous decade.

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was placed on the costly houses that were built in all quarters of the city in the prosperous decade before the Civil War.

John B. Wickersham of New York supplied an iron railing to enclose Forsyth Place, the ten-acre park that the City Council marked

off in 1851 at the foot of Bull Street. A cast-iron fountain manufactured by James Beebee & Company, also of New York, was made its focal point. The design for this fountain had taken the prize at the first international exhibition at London in 1851, and castings had been sent to cities in Europe and South America, even to remote Cuzco, where a duplicate of Savannah's fountain still plays in the ancient plaza against a backdrop of massive baroque churches.

To meet some of the demand for ironwork locally, David and William Rose, brothers who had been trained as machinists in Lancashire, opened the Indian Street Foundry in Yamacraw, Savannah's western suburb that had once been an Indian village. By 1854 they were offering "Iron and Brass Castings of all descriptions . . . at Northern prices." Large quantities of their work went to Savannah's three new cemeteries — Laurel Grove, Bonaventure, and St. Vincent de Paul—and can be identified by the firm name which the Rose brothers cast on their gates. During the Civil War the Indian Street Foundry was placed at the disposal of the Confederate government. The ironclad *Atlanta* was built there, and shot and shell were manufactured.

After the war other Savannah foundries were established, notably that of McDonough & Ballentyne. But fashions change. As the century drew to a close the popularity of ornamental ironwork waned. A new enthusiasm for open spaces brought about the removal of fences from churches and squares; not even Wickersham's railing around Forsyth Place was spared. Now the pendulum has swung back, and Savannahians of the present day cherish the ironwork that has survived.

Well-known historian and author of the book Savannah, *Walter Charlton Hartridge serves as an advisor to the city government as Chairman of Savannah-Chatham County Historic Sites and Monuments Commission. His article has been reprinted with the permission of* Antiques Magazine *and Historic Savannah Foundation, Incorporated.*

In Savannah . . . First

- Capital of 13th colony and later of Georgia, 1733
- City planned on a system of squares in North America, 1734
- Agricultural Experimental Station in North America, 1734
- Silk exportation in North America, 1735

- Moravian Church in North America, 1735
- Hymnal in Georgia, by John Wesley, 1736
- Lighthouse on South Atlantic coast, 1736
- Sunday School in the world, at Christ Church, 1736
- Horserace in Georgia, 1740

- Cattle exportation in Georgia, 1755
- Newspaper in the colony, **Georgia Gazette,** 1763
- Negro Baptist congregation in U. S., 1788
- Public school in Georgia, 1788
- Practical cotton gin, by Eli Whitney, 1793

- Golf in U. S., 1796
- Steamship to cross an ocean, the **S. S. Savannah,** 1819
- Hospital for Negroes in U. S., Georgia Infirmary, 1832
- Commercially successful iron steamship, the **S. S. John Randolph,** 1834.
- Use of rifled cannon in modern warfare, at Fort Pulaski, 1862

- Motorized fire department in U. S., 1911
- Girl Scout troop, founded by Juliette Gordon Low, 1912
- Nuclear-powered merchant ship, the **N. S. Savannah,** 1962
- Garden for the Blind in the Southeast, 1963

Walks and Excursions

Whether you are discovering Savannah for the first time or re-discovering your favorite haunts in Georgia's colonial capital, a tour of the "old city" is a treasured treat. Planned artfully from the beginning around now historic squares, the buildings and monuments capture in remarkable chronological sequence the flavor of a colonial, revolutionary, then ante-bellum past.

Amazingly enough twentieth-century life is wedded to these old city structures, many of which are proudly bearing the process of rejuvenation as their part in an ambitious city restoration effort. More enchanting than their substance — of architectural excellence, soft, old brick, remarkably wrought ironwork—is their significance, in quality and quantity, as a testimony to early America.

Go window shopping in the market place of history—but don't just walk and wonder! Be guided by the detailed directions which accompany the driving and walking tours on the following pages.

For those who wish professionally conducted tours by car or bus, Savannah Visitors Service provides daily coverage. For arrangements contact: Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce 233-3067 or Savannah Visitors Service Office 233-3597.

How Not To Get Lost!

By making a quick study of the coded touring map in the back cover pocket, you can easily locate the intriguing historical sites described in the following pictorial summary of Old Savannah. Then you can visit these sites at your leisure—either by car or in easy stages on foot.

Later in the book, beginning on page 94, an area map provides directions for excursions to outlying points of interest in Savannah and nearby towns. Rental cars are available.

EXCURSION I

OLD SAVANNAH: 1733 - 1900

(Driving Time: About 2 hours)

Visitors may complete Excursion I in chronological order by driving through the old city, guided by the solid red line on the touring map, or by following Walks A, B, C and D which are also coded by color on the map. Landmarks #1 through #38 on the map are keyed to the descriptive material which follows.

WALK A

"THE STRAND AND NEARBY RESTORATIONS"

(Walking Time: 1 - 2 hours)

1. **OGLETHORPE'S BENCH:** Just west of the City Hall on Yamacraw Bluff, a marble bench marks the site of James Edward Oglethorpe's damask-lined field tent. Just as he pondered here his plans for Georgia's first city in 1733, so you may relax as you plot your pilgrimage to the past. Then proceed eastward along the Strand, or Bay Street as it is called today.

2. **CITY HALL: 1905.** The domed City Hall is a two-levelled building having two lower stories which face the spot where, on **May 22, 1819,** sailed the **S. S. Savannah** — the first steamship to cross any ocean. Note the tablet commemorating this historic crossing and its companion plaque, dedicated to the ship **John Randolph,** the first successful ironclad vessel in American waters, (1834).

3. **CUSTOM HOUSE:** 1852. Almost facing City Hall on its imposing corner at Bull Street, the United States Custom House is notable for its six monolithic granite columns, each transported and erected in one piece! A tablet marks the site of a small frame house which Oglethorpe used for his headquarters, sharing the limelight with John Wesley who preached one of his first sermons on American soil in 1736 from the city's first public building which stood on the rear of the lot.

4. **WASHINGTON GUNS:** Paramount in importance and splendor was the visit of President George Washington to Savannah in May 1791. According to the **Georgia Gazette** on that day, the President was rowed down the river by nine American captains dressed in light blue silk jackets, black satin breeches, white silk stockings and round hats with black ribbons! Sparked by a boat parade, military salutes, formal dinners and a ball given at the Filature, Washington's celebration is best remembered for the outdoor noontide dinner to which 200 citizens were invited to toast their president as the Chatham Artillery fired its salutes in response.

GEORGE WASHINGTON

As a dramatic "bread and butter" present to the Chatham Artillery, Washington sent the two bronze cannon, which had been captured from Cornwallis at Yorktown, now fenced in the little park just east of the City Hall.

Next to the Washington Guns and across the street from the building where the Legislature of Georgia met in 1785 is placed a marker which signifies the birthplace of the University of Georgia whose charter to its Board of Trustees in 1785 was the first charter issued in the United States to a state university.

5. **SAVANNAH AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE:** Immediately to your left, the Chamber of Commerce occupies the old Savannah Cotton and Naval Stores Exchange, built in 1887 when King Cotton reigned over Savannah, the Atlantic's major cotton seaport. Using the principle of "air rights," this is the first building in the United States to be erected entirely over a public street. Enclosing the Griffon of the Cotton Kingdom and his landscaped fountain is an elaborate ironwork railing which immortalizes famous statesmen and authors in beautifully detailed medallions.

6. **CITY EXCHANGE BELL:** The bell, which hangs in a replica of the cupola, stands as a memorial to the old City Exchange, built in 1799. Flanking it are two urns which were brought to Savannah in 1858 by General Henry R. Jackson, the U. S. Charge d'Affaires in Austria.

Recently mounted is the Revolutionary cannon which for generations was planted, barrel down, to serve as a bumper warding off traffic at a Bull Street corner.

7. **FACTORS' ROW AND FACTORS' WALKS:** Strung along the bluff is Factors' Row, a unique range of red brick buildings named for the cotton factors, or brokers, who brought fame to nineteenth century Savannah with their flair for cotton commerce and their dedication to the Southern way of life. Still a focal point for much of Savannah's business life, these buildings rise two or three stories above the bluff and descend for three or more stories to the river front where, in the 1800's, the lower floors served as cotton and naval stores warehouses with entrances at several levels.

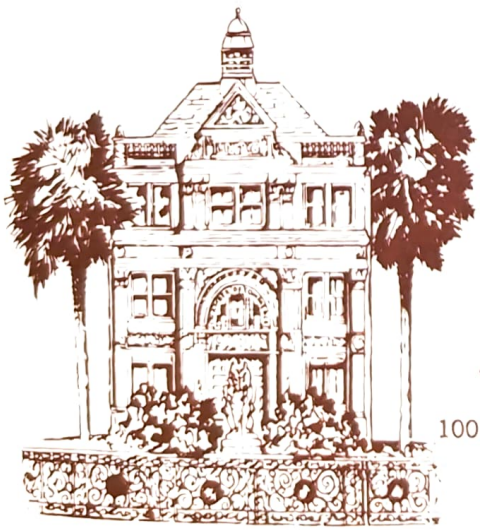
in Savannah...
Make this your headquarters for a more enjoyable visit.

Stop here 1st

Let us be the first to welcome you to Georgia's Colonial Capital. Stop by and we'll give you any information you wish on the attractions, lodging, restaurants and night life in Savannah and surrounding area. We want you to enjoy all the fun and enchantment our historic city offers its visitors.

You will enjoy a visit to the Chamber Building with its imposing fireplaces, ornate woodwork and stained glass windows overlooking the harbor. In its 19th century heyday, this was the Cotton Exchange, hub of commerce in the world's foremost cotton port.

Our offices are open from 8:30 to 5:00 Monday through Friday and 9:00 to 12:00 Saturday.



SAVANNAH
AREA CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE
100 EAST BAY STREET
233-3067

Ramps leading from the Bay Street level down the bluff to River Street are paved with cobblestones brought as ballast in early sailing ships; the bluff had no retaining walls until the early 1840's when city engineers began shoring the walls with brick and ballast to prevent erosion of the clean, white sand which surfaced the entire bluff and riverfront.

Descend ramp just north of Lincoln Street.

Halfway down the ramp the middle level of Factors' Walk stretches east and west, highlighted by the connecting bridges which lead to upper level offices and charming apartments.

Military Museum: To your left at 225 Factors' Walk, halfway down the ramp, the Military Museum boasts a fine collection of Confederate weapons, cannon and documents — dramatically depicting the War Between the States. 25c admission charge. Open 10:00 to 5:00, Sunday 2:00-5:00.

Boar's Head: As you continue down the ramp to River Street, note the Boar's Head, today a restaurant whose "Pub Room" was used as Confederate Headquarters in the evacuation of Savannah in 1864.

—Courtesy, Savannah Public Library, Gamble Collection

"ON THE WESTERN STRAND 1870"

8. **RIVER STREET**: Cut through the wharf area during the middle 1800's, River Street embraces the incessant activities of a modern international port retaining, at the same time, the aura of its former life. Sharing in a master restoration plan, River Street's overhanging iron railed balconies and soft, old brick will be enhanced with landscaped parks, parking areas and craft shops.

As you turn right to explore River Street, note the numerous night spots—rendezvous romantic and reminiscent.

The Cruz del Sur: So appropriate in its setting, the sailing ship moored to your left has been meticulously restored, tempting big and little pirates to explore its decks. Admission is included in price for Ships of the Sea Maritime Museum.

Ships of the Sea Maritime Museum: Across the street from the Cruz del Sur, this museum is superior in every respect, a must for devotees of model ships and nautical artifacts. Stunning displays. Open year 'round every day, 10:00 to 6:00. Admission: Adults $1.00, children $.50. Special prices for groups and servicemen.

Last on the River Street level, tiered majestically up the bluff, stands the Savannah Electric & Power Co. building (1965), a skillful blend of architecture old and new. Enjoy the picturesque park that flanks it. Rest here before you climb the ramp to Emmet Park.

9. **EMMET PARK**: Above the ramp, stretching for several blocks westward, Emmet Park is one of Savannah's loveliest vistas, a tribute to Robert Emmet (1778-1803), Irish patriot and orator. Within the park are points of interest which the more ambitious walkers may wish to explore by a small detour.

(Detour for those on foot; drivers may park.)

The Harbor Light: Placed 77 feet above the water in 1852 to guide ships into the harbor, the cast-iron beacon warned mariners of the graveyard of vessels scuttled by the British in 1779.

Iron Fence: Edging the ramp wall is a decorative cast iron fence, once destined to grace the piazza of a governor's mansion.

Dunlap House: Across the street, southwest corner of Bay and Price Streets. Despite its age (before 1800), this valuable house withstood its perilous transfer from another location—its two huge brick chimneys, hand hewn pegged timbers and dormered roof remaining intact. A nostalgia for the past mixes quietly with contemporary comfort in this lovely restoration which John Eppinger built almost entirely of heart-of-pine timbers.

Memorial Fountain: Close by, this Savannah grey brick fountain salutes the three famous ships **Savannah**: the steamship **Savannah, the U.S.S. Savannah** and the nuclear ship **Savannah.** Erected by the Propeller Club of the U. S. and its overseas branches in 1962.

(End of detour. Proceed east to East Broad Street, then turn right.)

10. FORT WAYNE: As you turn right into East Broad Street, glance to the left at the retaining walls of Fort Wayne, constructed during the Revolutionary War and later named for General Anthony Wayne.

11. TRUSTEES' GARDEN: Established as the first economic garden in the U. S., Trustees' Garden was begun in 1733 by the trustees who founded the colony, nurtured an immense agricultural experiement with plants and herbs from all over the world—and produced as its most dramatic offspring the famed cotton and peach crops of Georgia. Sold to Governor John Reynolds and subdivided in the 1750's, the garden became Savannah's first subdivision —preserved and restored today as Trustees' Garden Village, an old gem in a new setting, picturesque, authentic and unique in America.

Trustees' Garden Village: Built in the early 19th century, the houses facing East Broad Street from Number 36 to 56 shelter behind their beautifully restored brick and ironwork charming little gardens containing many of the original plants and herbs of the old experimental garden. Cherished as Savannah's **first** large restoration project, Trustees' Garden Village set the tone for giant strides in preservation which have been taken since its own emergence in the 1950's.

THE PIRATES' HOUSE-OLD SEAMEN'S INN—1754

The Pirates' House, 20 East Broad Street: Housing a fine restaurant in a mysterious maze of rooms, the Pirates' House is a perfectly preserved seamen's tavern built in 1754 when this riverside section was a flourishing haven for sailors from the seven seas. Reminiscent of the days of wooden ships and iron men, the Pirates' House, once a museum, invites browsers to explore its peg-beamed rooms, nautical displays, local art exhibits and curio collections.

As a pleasant sidetrack from Walk A, visitors may enter Trustees' Garden at the parking lot to explore the hidden recesses of the Village not seen from the street.

—Photo by Charles Henry

THE HERB HOUSE—GEORGIA'S OLDEST STANDING BUILDING—1734

The Herb House, 26 East Broad Street: Regarded as the oldest standing building in Georgia, the Herb House dates from 1734 when it was built to house the tools and implements of the gardeners. Note the blue shutters, believed in early days to ward off evil spirits. To view the interior, visitors may enter through the Pirates' House from the parking lot.

Crossing East Broad Street, the walker turns west on St. Julian Street to approach Washington Square. Drivers on East Broad Street merely turn right into St. Julian Street.

12. ST. JULIAN STREET AND WASHINGTON SQUARE: Washington Square, named for President George Washington, was laid out in 1790, was soon studded with small houses of great architectual merit, was later subjected to decadent slum conditions, and was finally liberated by talented and dedicated restoration experts whose brilliant achievement serves as a harbinger of the rejuvenation planned for Old Savannah. The square, newly landscaped, presents itself as a garden to the surrounding homes, and St. Julian Street adds an authentic touch of the past with its surface of oyster shells.

For a closer view of houses on the south side of the square, walkers and drivers may circle the square completely before continuing west on St. Julian Street.

20 Houston Street: To your right, east side of square. Small, but privileged, with its construction of coveted Savannah grey brick, this charming house still bears interesting old hurricane rods.

Bottling Company: Corner of Houston and Bryan Streets. Formerly an old cotton warehouse, this building is supported by pilasters on its older portion; note handsome wrought iron medallion and balcony.

520-522 East Bryan Street: North side of square. Late 19th century double town houses with notable wooden cornice details and cast iron balcony.

21 Houston Street: West side of square. Built in 1840 by the Mirault family, French refugees from Santo Domingo, this house features unusual corner windows with peaked pediments and a surprising interior of West Indian influence.

23 Houston Street: Following careful measurements and drawings, this 1820 town house was rebuilt to its original lines, retaining its old mantels and flooring.

Those who wish to circle the square entirely will cross St. Julian Street, continuing south on Houston Street to Congress Street, then left again into Houston Street and back around square where tour route turns west on St. Julian.

International Seaman's House, operated by Savannah Port Society: Corner of St. Julian and Houston Streets. A 1965 structure stylized to blend with its historic setting, this hall and chapel offer a restful sanctuary to Savannah's many visiting seamen. Incorporated 1843.

519 East Congress Street: South side of square. As a two-family, twin-dormer dwelling, this house was built about 1820.

31 Houston Street: South side of square. Grey painted Savannah greys offset Victorian handcarved balustrades.

535 East Congress Street: South side of square. This substantial building is made of tabby, an inexpensive building material popular in colonial days.

26-28-30 Houston Street: East side of square. Note Savannah grey brick sidewalk linking these Victorian row houses, hallmarks throughout Savannah.

Recircle square back to St. Julian Street and go west.

512-514 East St. Julian Street: Double high-stoop frame houses such as these were built about 1840.

510 East St. Julian Street: Major Charles Oddingsells, Skidaway Island planter and owner of Little Wassau Island, chose a style similar to many of the houses in Colonial Williamsburg when he built this house, the earliest on the block, about 1793. The distinctive bricks in this house were all fired in a Kiln near Trustees' Garden and are shown to advantage in the large brick chimney serving all floors.

—Photo by Andrew Pine

HAMPTON LILLIBRIDGE HOUSE

507 East St. Julian Street: Across the street. Originally built by Hampton Lillibridge in 1796, this three-story clapboard house was recently moved five blocks to its present location and restored in perfect detail. As the only 18th century gambrel roofed house in the state, it is unique to Georgia and enjoys the prestige of being Savannah's "haunted house"! Among its countless claims to fame are its Captain's Walk, fine woodwork and paneling, old pine floors, black-green marble fireplace fronts, and exquisite furnishings—with even a pipe organ installed on the fourth floor. Spiking the garden walls are jagged broken bottles, grim reminders of the colonists' need for property protection.

503 East St. Julian Street: Typical of the first houses clustered off Washington Square is this cozy cottage with its single dormer, built in the late 18th century.

501 East St. Julian Street: A late Victorian house with eye-catching dentil trim.

504 East St. Julian Street: Across the street, on the corner of Price and St. Julian Streets. Probably constructed about 1850, this house can be classified as one of the early elaborate 19th century town houses.

426 East St. Julian Street: Across Price Street to your right. 1750-1790. Moved from a nearby location and restored, just as it was—including the odd-sized windows in front—this beguiling house typifies the design of Savannah's earliest modest homes. The six over nine windows, featured in the **Early Architecture of Georgia,** wide floor boards and rear dormer window add to its historic appeal.

425 East St. Julian Street: Across the street, on the corner, a charming double town house of the early 19th century features brick painted green and marble steps.

419 East St. Julian Street: Reconstructed in 1964 as a fine, true restoration of the original William Pope house of 1810, this house was sectioned into six apartments during its slum period when it was stripped of everything original except the fine hall staircase and old, wide attic flooring.

420-422 East St. Julian Street: Across the street. Heralded as one of the city's most beautiful restorations, this high-stooped Savannah grey brick 19th century town house featured in its garden an unimaginable assortment of ancient plumbing and a tribe of wild cats before it was so provocatively restored in 1960.

22 Habersham Street: Facing Warren Square, with its walled garden and marvelous side view bordering St. Julian, this late 18th century house was built by one of the Spencer brothers and became one of the most important houses of its time. Never restored, it has withstood the ravages of time and stands today, conserving, untouched, its excellence as a country type of the more elaborate town houses of the era.

24 Habersham Street: Also facing Warren Square, on the opposite corner of St. Julian, stands a stately town house of noble proportions which was built by John David Mongin, owner and planter of Dafuskie Island, in 1798. The aura of its splendid restoration is enhanced by the stories of its historic uses—as a rallying place for French refugees from the French Revolution of 1793, as the rectory of Christ Episcopal Church, as host to LaFayette during his visit to Savannah in 1825 and as a hospital for yellow fever victims during the epidemic of 1876.

410 East Bryan Street: Just off Habersham Street on the northeast corner of the square stands a brown clapboard house which is considered "a little gem" of the early 19th century.

402 East Bryan Street: As the sole survivor of a type of wooden residence that was once found in many sections of Savannah, this house was built about 1820 by John Eppinger and recently was dramatically moved to this location. Among the famous persons who made history in this home was Judge Peter W. Meldrim who, as a boy during Civil War years, banded his friends together to form the Bartow Debating Society—which had its library in the basement.

Continue down Bryan to Abercorn Street.

—Drawing by Ray Dilley

A GARDEN CORNER

Say you saw it in "Sojourn in Savannah!"

—Drawing by Cornelia Cunningham Huffer

THE PINK HOUSE

13. THE PINK HOUSE, 23 Abercorn Street: Called the Pink House because of the beautiful soft shade of stucco which covers its old brick walls, this Georgian house was built for James Habersham, Jr., in 1789. Particularly good is its entrance with an interesting portico that offsets a fine Palladian window. Additions were made in 1812 when the building became a branch of the Second Bank of the U. S. In 1865 it was used as headquarters for General York, a leader of the invading federal forces. Today it is a popular downtown restaurant which faces Reynolds Square where Marshall Daugherty's statue of John Wesley, founder of Methodism, was erected by the Methodists of Georgia in 1969.

Oliver Sturgis House: 27 Abercorn Street. After purchasing the old parsonage lot from Christ Church, Oliver Sturges and Benjamin Burroughs built twin houses of mirror image in 1818. Opposite the Pink House, the Sturgis House remains—an architectural gem awaiting restoration.

END OF WALK A

Walkers and drivers continue to Bull Street where Walk B begins and driving tour continues.

WALK B

"THE BULL STREET SQUARES: THE JEWELS OF SAVANNAH"

(Walking Time: 1 - 2 hours)

On the map walkers are routed south on Bull Street, along the west side of each square, to Forsyth Park where the route turns north, along the east side of each square. One of the most historic walks in America.

14. JOHNSON SQUARE: As the first of the jewels of Savannah —the five little green acres that adorn Bull Street—Johnson Square was the earliest of the 24 original squares. Laid out in 1733, it honors Oglethorpe's friend and helper, Governor Robert Johnson of South Carolina, and remains as a crossroad in history: here the colonists came to find out the time of day from the sun dial (replaced in 1933 by the Society of Colonial Wars in Georgia); here they met to draw water, gossip and post public notices; here they gathered to receive President Monroe in 1819 and again in 1825 to laud French General Marquis de Lafayette, who laid the corner-stone for the imposing monument which marks the grave of General Nathanael Greene, Revolutionary War hero; here a public reception was held for Daniel Webster and his wife in 1847, and in 1860, upon the announcement of South Carolina's secession from the Union, a large meeting was held in the square where the Secession flag was unfurled from the Greene monument.

Supporting the busy life of the square, public buildings sprang up to link the religious, domestic and social life of the community. Foremost among these was Christ Episcopal Church (described in Landmark #38), "mother church" of the colony. Close by stood the general store which faced the house for strangers, public oven and grist mill—all links with a past no longer visible.

A mosaic map near the sundial artistically reproduces the early city in colorful tiles.

Both the Driving Tour and Walk B continue south on Bull Street across Broughton Street — Savannah's main shopping area — to Wright Square.

15. **WRIGHT SQUARE**: Named for Sir James Wright, last of the Royal Governors of Georgia, Wright Square was laid out in 1733. In its southeast corner lies a massive granite boulder from Georgia's celebrated Stone Mountain which commemorates the burial in 1739 of Tomo-Chi-Chi, the Mico, or Chief, of the Yamacraw Indians. The imposing monument in the center of the square was erected in 1883 as a tribute to William Washington Gordon, founder and president of the Central of Georgia Railroad. The Lutheran Church of the Ascension, established in 1741, graces the east border of the square where it may be viewed in detail by both walkers and drivers near the end of their tours. (See Landmark #37.)

Flanking the west side of the square is the Post Office, an adaptation of Moorish architecture featuring Georgia marble.

NOTE TO WALKERS: You may detour 3 blocks west for optional side tour to Landmark #18, as shown by dotted lines on walking tour map.

—Drawing by C. Williamson

JULIETTE GORDON LOW BIRTHPLACE

16. JULIETTE GORDON LOW BIRTHPLACE: Corner Oglethorpe Avenue and Bull Street. As a reward for its architectural beauty, historical significance and exceptional furnishings, this Regency mansion was named Savannah's first National Historic Landmark in 1965. Now owned and operated by the Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. as a living memorial to Juliette Gordon Low, their founder, and as a National Program Center, "the birthplace," as it is fondly called, attracts Girl Scouts and visitors from all over the world.

Built in 1819-21 by William Jay for James Moore Wayne, then Mayor of Savannah, the house was later sold to William Washington Gordon and remained in the hands of his descendants until its purchase and preservation by the Girl Scouts in the 1950s. Open Tues.-Sat. 10:00 to 4:00; Sunday 2:00 to 4:30. Admission: Girl Scouts, voluntary gift. Others $1.00 adults, .50 under 18. Group rates.

Walkers continue down Bull Street to Landmark #19.

17. OGLETHORPE AVENUE: Laid out and named South Broad Street in 1801, this tree-lined avenue was later named for General James Oglethorpe, founder of the colony. Originally designed with wooded center plats, this section was used as the common and as a burial ground by Jewish colonists. Note the stunning view of the side of the Independent Presbyterian Church, its garden and Educational Building which border the south side of the avenue.

—Drawing by Gerald Storey

TELFAIR ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

18. **TELFAIR ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES**: Designed by William Jay and completed in 1820 for Alexander Telfair, son of Governor Edward Telfair, this Regency mansion was bequeathed in 1875 to the Georgia Historical Society to be used as a museum. In the 1880's it was remodelled and enlarged into the city's major art museum. Its rooms, which Jay creatively designed in varying sizes and shapes, display a fine permanent collection of paintings, exquisite furniture, and the original mantelpieces, moldings, cornices and innovations for which Jay was so famous.

Open 10:00 to 5:00, Monday 12:00 to 5:00, Sunday 2:00 to 5:00. Admission is free.

—Drawing by Christopher Murphy, Jr.
INDEPENDENT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

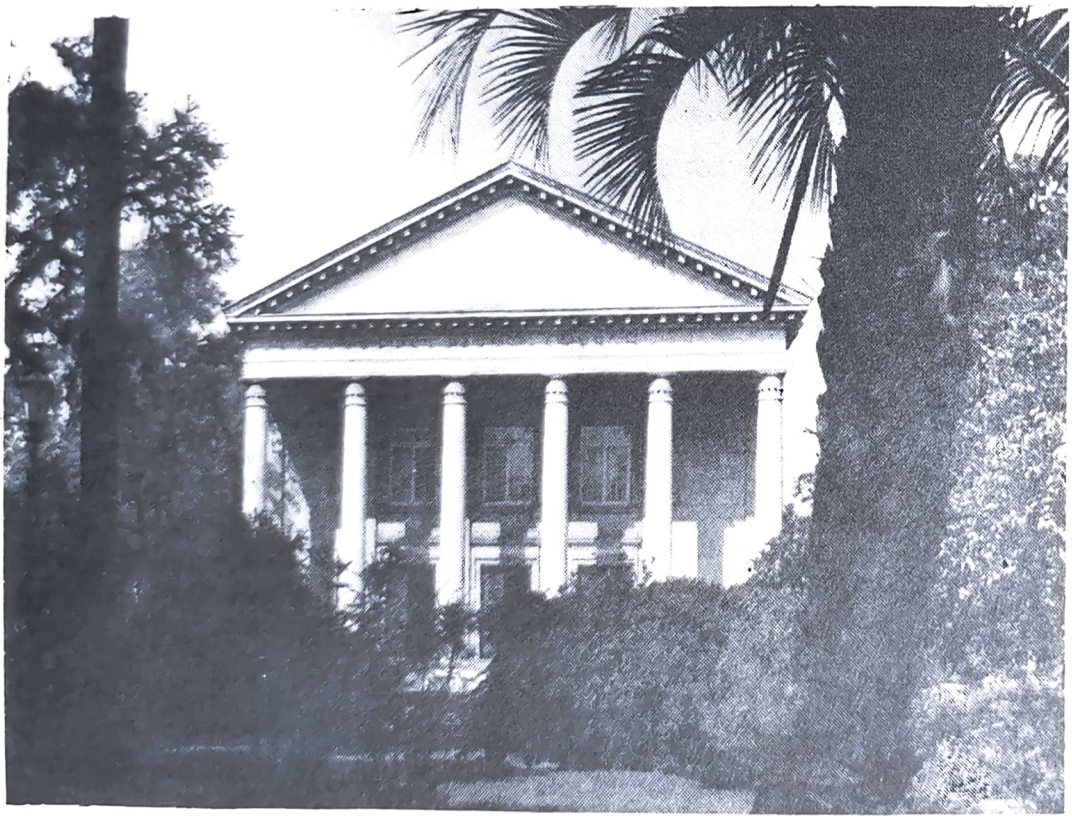
TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH: As the oldest Methodist Church in Savannah, Trinity holds a unique place in the development of world Methodism. Dedicated in 1848 on land which had been the Telfair garden, the sanctuary is a true example of Corinthian architecture. With an interior design similar to that of Wesley Chapel in London, the church is constructed of Savannah gray brick with a stucco finish and hand hewn Georgia pine. Open daily.

19. **INDEPENDENT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**: Southwest corner of Oglethorpe Avenue and Bull Street. For a congregation organized in 1755, John Holden Greene of Rhode Island designed the original Independent Presbyterian Church in 1816 as a finely proportioned structure of late Georgian Colonial design.

When the original was destroyed by fire in 1889, the building was replaced by the present structure, thought to be a duplicate of the original. A breathtaking sanctuary of simple elegance with elevated pulpit, softly filtered light and beautifully designed domed ceiling, the church is dramatically lighted at night. Here in 1885 Woodrow Wilson married Ellen Axson, granddaughter of the pastor. Open to the public.

Chatham Junior High School: Across the street. Originally called Chatham Academy, Chatham Junior High stands at the spot of one of Georgia's first educational institutions, incorporated in 1788.

20. **CHIPPEWA SQUARE:** Named to commemorate American valor in the Canadian Battle of Chippewa, War of 1812, Chippewa Square was laid out in 1813 and is presided over by Savannah's most distinguished statue, a magnificent bronze figure of James Edward Oglethorpe designed by Daniel Chester French, dean of American sculptors.



—Photo by Pacetti Studios

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

By intent Oglethorpe, immortalized here as the founder of the Colony, faces south toward his enemy, the Spanish, whom he defeated in 1742 at the Battle of Bloody Marsh.

First Baptist Church: West side of square. Organized in 1800, the First Baptist Church was granted a perpetual charter in 1801 by Governor Josiah Tattnall, Jr., and moved into its newly completed sanctuary in 1833. Served by many distinguished ministers, one of whom founded Mercer University, this church was one of few along the Eastern Seaboard to offer regular services throughout the Civil War. Open to the public.

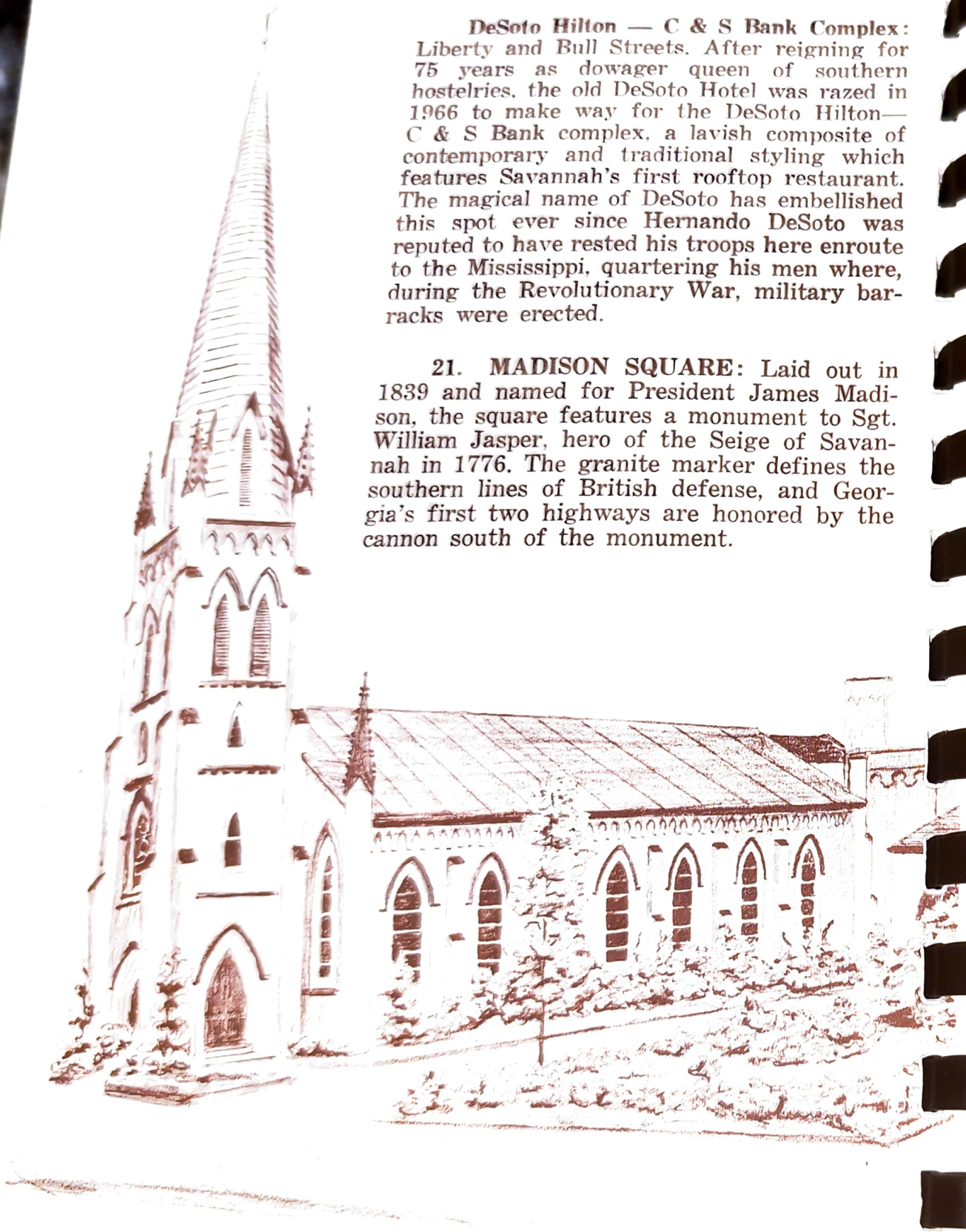
Stoddard-Hull-Barrow House: Southwest corner of Bull and McDonough Streets. Built between 1844-48, this fine example of new classic architecture served as the residence for a succession of notable families, each of which contributed to its history of gracious living and delightful entertainment. It now houses the offices of an insurance firm which added the spectacular iron fence, a treasure salvaged from the grounds of a former mansion.

Savannah Theater: Northeast corner of square. Thought to be the nation's oldest theater in continuous existence, the Savannah Theater was designed in 1818 by William Jay. Renovated because of fire damage, today's theater displays in an exterior wall old bricks and pictures reminiscent of the days when actors such as Charles Coburn began their careers here.

Liberty Street: Lined with charming old houses, many of which contain antique shops, Liberty Street is a spacious boulevard, idea for shopping and browsing.

DeSoto Hilton — C & S Bank Complex: Liberty and Bull Streets. After reigning for 75 years as dowager queen of southern hostelries, the old DeSoto Hotel was razed in 1966 to make way for the DeSoto Hilton—C & S Bank complex, a lavish composite of contemporary and traditional styling which features Savannah's first rooftop restaurant. The magical name of DeSoto has embellished this spot ever since Hernando DeSoto was reputed to have rested his troops here enroute to the Mississippi, quartering his men where, during the Revolutionary War, military barracks were erected.

21. **MADISON SQUARE:** Laid out in 1839 and named for President James Madison, the square features a monument to Sgt. William Jasper, hero of the Seige of Savannah in 1776. The granite marker defines the southern lines of British defense, and Georgia's first two highways are honored by the cannon south of the monument.



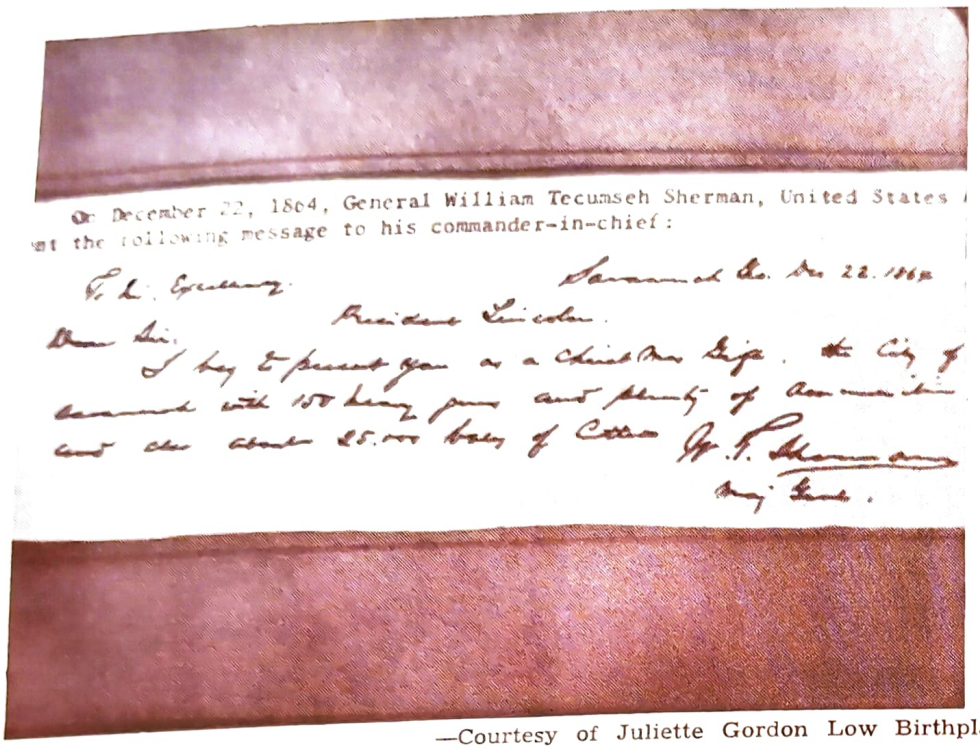
ST. JOHN'S CHURCH AND PARISH HOUSE:

Sorrell-Weed House: Northwest corner of square. Designed by Charles B. Cluskey, this fine example of the Greek Revival style was completed in 1840 and has been preserved by its conversion into apartments.

22. ST. JOHN'S CHURCH and PARISH HOUSE: West side of square. Treasured for its melodious chimes and its exquisite stained glass windows, St. John's Church, of Gothic Revival style, was built in 1852-53—close by its present Parish House, the former Green-Meldrim home, which was completed in 1854 by Charles Green, a wealthy cotton merchant. General William Tecumseh Sherman established his headquarters here during the Union Army's occupation of Savannah, 1864-65, when Sherman gave the city to Lincoln as a Christmas present. After subsequent ownership by Judge Peter Meldrim, former Mayor of Savannah and once president of the American Bar Association, the mansion was sold to the church which restored its magnificent Gothic carving, plaster work and spacious rooms. Both buildings are open to the public. Call church office for hours.

—Drawing by Gerald Storey

FORMER GREEN-MELDRIM HOUSE


On December 22, 1864, General William Tecumseh Sherman, United States
sent the following message to his commander-in-chief:

—Courtesy of Juliette Gordon Low Birthplace

TELEGRAM FROM GENERAL SHERMAN TO PRESIDENT LINCOLN: DECEMBER 22, 1864:

On December 22, 1864, General William Tecumseh Sherman, United States Army, sent the following message to his commander-in-chief:

"To his Excellency Savannah, Ga., Dec. 22, 1864

Dear Sir: President Lincoln

I beg to present you as a Christmas Gift, the City of Savannah with 150 heavy guns and plenty of ammunition and also about 25,000 bales of cotton.

W. T. Sherman
Maj. Genl."

Just beyond the church on the southwest corner of Bull Street stands the old Scottish Rite Temple which shelters the oldest drug-store in Georgia. Begun in 1845 at another location, the drugstore was moved to its present site in 1912 and became a favorite meeting spot for young swains who met to drink sarsaparilla.

Close-by on the northeast corner of the square, a perfect Greek Revival townhouse reflects the romance of Savannah's most prosperous era when Charles Coburn visited often here on the square. Built in 1840, the mansion has been authentically restored and provides an ideal setting for one of the most beautiful shops on the Atlantic Coast.

1 West Jones Street: Facing Jones Street, with its splendidly linked row houses which will be seen later in the tour, rises the I. K. Tefft House, built in the 1850's and now converted into apartments. Internationally known as an autograph collector, Mr. Tefft extended his hospitality to renowned visitors such as Martha Washington's niece and the great Swedish feminist Fredrika Bremer who considered Savannah an assemblage of villas which have come together for company.

23. **MONTEREY SQUARE:** To memorialize the capture of Monterey, Mexico, in 1846 by General Zachary Taylor's American Forces, Monterey Square was laid out in 1847. Its monument salutes Count Casimir Pulaski, a young Polish nobleman who fell as a hero during the American Revolution.

4 West Taylor Street: Northwest corner of square. Built of Philadelphia red brick in 1852, this handsome home is guarded by two iron cranes whose intriguing legend has entertained generations of Savannahians. The guardian crane, a symbol of vigilance, stands on one foot while in the other he clasps a stone which, should he start to slumber, would fall on the other foot to alert him.

10 West Taylor Street: With its colorful Dutch tiled roof and picturesque walled garden, this pink stucco house is shown to advantage in an engraving of Savannah done in 1857. The handsome ironwork, added later, enhances the exuberance of the exterior design, creating an interesting effect in contrast to the severely classic interior. See page 17.

423 and 425 Bull Street: West side of square. Built for Dr. Charles W. Rogers in 1858, this charming double house has a duplicate in Gramercy Park in New York City. Its graceful wrought iron is considered one of Savannah's most beautiful examples of artistic ironwork. See page 19.

429 Bull Street: Cited as nationally significant for its architectural style in an Historic Savannah Foundation survey, the Mercer-Wilder home was begun about 1860. The house is outstanding for its cast iron window pediments, eight cast iron balconies and sidewalk fence.

3 West Gordon Street: Southwest corner of Bull and Gordon Streets. With dramatic artistry the heavy cast iron balcony and balustrade create a stunning adornment for this exceptional nineteenth century home where President Chester A. Arthur once visited his relatives. Now the home of Savannah Art Association.

Scudder's Row: Southeast corner of Bull and Gordon Streets. Often called London Terrace, Scudder's Row is a graceful queue of restored townhouses which were built about 1850 by the brothers John and Ephriam Scudder.

Temple Mickve Israel: East side of square. As Georgia's oldest Jewish congregation, Mickve Israel began with a group of Spanish-Portuguese Jews who landed in Savannah just five months after the founding of the colony. With them they brought a "Sephar Torah," still a prized possessison of the congregation. The present temple with its beautiful windows was consecrated in 1878.

TEMPLE MICKVE ISRAEL

George Armstrong House: Northwest corner of Bull and Gaston Streets. Constructed about 1920 of a unique brick made from marble dust, the Armstrong House was left to the city in 1938 as a college facility. When the college was relocated in the 1960's the building, with adjacent ones which had comprised Armstrong Junior College, was sold for private ownership and restoration.

Oglethorpe Club: Northeast corner of Bull and Gaston Streets. Built about 1840 in the Classical Revival manner for Edmund Molyneux, British Consul, this stately home was later owned by Henry R. Jackson and today houses the Oglethorpe Club.

24. **FORSYTH PARK**: Encompassing 20 acres, Forsyth Park was conceived by William B. Hodgson and named for Governor John Forsyth when it was laid out in 1851. Stretching southward from the Marine Corps marker, the main promenade is highlighted by the beautiful white fountain which was erected in 1858. Following, on the right, is the Fragrant Garden for the Blind, a highly creative project of Savannah garden clubs. The lofty monument to the Confederacy, erected in 1874-75, was designed by Robert Reid of Montreal of Canadian sandstone and stands in Forsyth Park Extension—the parade ground of Savannah militia. Within the iron-railed enclosure surrounding the monument are busts of two Confederate heroes, General LaFayette McLaws and Brigadier General Francis S. Bartow. On the eastern side of the park extension Savannah's Senior Citizens enjoy attractive craft and workshops and at the southern limit is the Spanish-American War Memorial.

Visitors are invited to enter Forsyth Park where leafy green arcades, waving banners of Spanish moss, bird calls, scampering squirrels, cooing pigeons, colorful splashes of azaleas—all are part of a scene that has an abiding and restful charm.

END OF WALK B

At this point walkers return to the starting point of WALK B by turning north; drivers continue their tour by turning west on Gaston Street. WALK C begins at Jones and Abercorn Streets.

25. **GASTON STREET**: With most of its stately old homes purchased for restoration, Gaston Street is quickly regaining its elegance of the mid-1800's.

20 West Gaston Street: Once the pre-Civil War home of General Alexander Lawton, this home features the romantic Romanesque touch—an unusual departure from the ordinary home of its time.

J. Florance Minis House: Northeast corner of Gaston and Whitaker Streets. Known as the beautiful J. Florance Minis house, this was a pre-Civil War mansion which was remodelled as an Italian villa soon after that war.

Hodgson Hall: Southwest corner of Gaston and Whitaker Streets. Built in 1874-75 as a memorial to scholarly William Brown Hodgson, Hodgson Hall is the headquarters of the Georgia Historical Society, oldest such society in Georgia. It contains a priceless collection of historical documents and colonial relics and is the source for most of the historical research done in Savannah. Open without charge Monday through Friday, 10:00 to 6:00.

The rest of the charming houses on Gaston Street were built in the 1850's and are unusual for their deep lots and front gardens.

As the tour turns right into Barnard Street the famous "Blue Range" houses may be seen to the west. Fine old row houses, they were built in 1855 by the Republican Blues, a military organization which was active before the Civil War and actually operated as a building and loan association.

Gordon Row: Southeast corner of Gordon and Barnard Streets. Noted for its ironwork and unusual doorways, Gordon Row stretches a full block—15 stately, 4-storied rowhouses built in the 1880's for rental property and now restored.

—Drawing by Ray Dilley

HOUSE ON JONES STREET

26. JONES STREET: Passing other old homes, the tour turns east on Jones Street, which at this point is in the midst of one of Savannah's largest redevelopment areas—Pulaski Square—West Jones Street. Those who wish to see the entire project may detour north one block to Pulaski Square, circle it and return to Jones Street via Tattnall Street. Most of the houses in the entire area, where restoration is rampant, have historic markers dating them in the mid-1800's when paired houses, double curving steps and elaborate ironwork were fashionable. Crossing Bull Street the tour follows Jones Street to Abercorn, passing a stunning succession of high-stooped restored rowhouses.

Drivers continue to Landmark #27 by turning south on Abercorn Street. At this point Walk C begins.

WALK C

"ABERCORN STREET AND JONES STREET RESTORATION"

(Walking Time: 1½ hours)

On the map walkers are routed a few steps south, then north, then south again to their starting point. However, if walkers wish to follow Walks C and D consecutively, they may shorten their steps by observing both sides of Abercorn Street as they walk north, avoid the return to the starting point of Walk C, and join Walk D at Landmark #31.

As the tour approaches Landmark #27, it enters one of Savannah's most interesting residential neighborhoods, where countless examples of mid-19th century architecture are attracting suburbanites who wish to participate in the renewal of downtown living. No longer restricted to the very rich or the very poor, urban neighborhoods such as this one are expanding their perimeters street by street—gradually linking together the many pioneer areas where restoration first began.

128 East Taylor Street: Northwest corner of Taylor and Abercorn Streets. Built in 1854-55 of brick with a stucco finish, this house is one of builder George Ash's finest creations. Significant are its bay windows, marble porch and steps and brownstone window sills.

202 East Taylor Street: Across the street on northeast corner of Taylor and Abercorn Streets. Enhanced by its striking ironwork, this beautiful dwelling was built in 1857-60. Of particular interest are its doorway, brick carriage house and garden.

421 Abercorn Street: As the tour enters the square, the parish house for Wesley Monumental Methodist Church rises to the west. Again, favored mid-19th century materials, stucco on brick, were chosen, offsetting a mansard roof, high stoop and marble steps.

426 Abercorn Street: Across the street on the southeast corner of Taylor and Abercorn Streets. Another excellent contribution by George Ash to the architecture of the 1800's, this handsome home is noted for its doorway, high stoop, and exterior details.

27. WESLEY MONUMENTAL METHODIST CHURCH: Corner of Abercorn and Gordon Streets. Considered one of the handsomest Methodist churches in the South, this Gothic Revival memorial to John Wesley and Charles Wesley, the founders of Methodism, celebrated its 100th anniversary in 1968. Patterned after Queen's Kirk in Amsterdam, the sanctuary seats more than 1000 persons who may worship surrounded by the beauty of stained glass windows which were made by

—Photo by Williams Studio

WESLEY MONUMENTAL METHODIST CHURCH

Tiffany and dedicated to Methodism's historic figures. The magnificent Wesley Window which is opposite the pulpit contains the busts of John and Charles Wesley who preached in early Savannah (at the Anglican Church) long before Methodism became a reality. Open to the public.

Calhoun Square: Named for John C. Calhoun, eminent southern statesman, Calhoun Square was laid out in 1851. Since several of the streets radiating from the square contain notable houses which the tour does not actually pass, brief detour hints will be inserted from time to time to point out these additional structures which the leisurely walker —or driver—will not want to miss.

The Little House: 107 East Gordon Street. Across from the north side of the church. Coolly inviting, the garden of the Little House, a book store and gift shop, shelters the building which was built originally for use as a carriage house.

113 East Gordon Street: Walkers continue on Gordon Street east of the Little House to view a series of mid-19th century houses. The first—at #113—features a wood cornice and brackets, a balcony and cast iron balustrade, and a two-story porch of wood.

115 East Gordon Street: Its doorway made important by side lights, pilasters and transom lights, this dignified house combines a cornice of wood with lintels and sills of stone.

127 East Gordon Street: Southwest corner of Gordon and Abercorn Streets. Constructed of brick with a stucco finish, this house is distinctive for its high entrance stoop and bay window over the portico.

Massie School: Southeast corner of Abercorn and Gordon Streets. Massie School, honored as Georgia's oldest school in continuous operation, is one of Savannah's finest structures—noted for its gable roof, wood cupola and cornice, and its unique passageway which connects the three buildings.

430-432 Abercorn Street: As the tour continues east on Gordon Street, note the remarkable house which faces the east side of the square. Among its many handsome features are the high stoop, curved stairs, portico and bay window, and lavish ironwork. In the rear, the remodelled carriage house (actually 210 East Gordon Street) has become known as a chic jewel box furnished in French antiques.

217-227 East Gordon Street: As the tour continues east on Gordon Street these notable late 19th century row houses appear to the right. Note wood cornices and brackets and brick segmental arch window heads.

220-222 East Gordon Street: Just across the street on the north side of Gordon Street. Due to changes made during remodelling, these two structures appear to be different—while in reality they are parts of the same building. On the facade of #220 the balcony has been removed and a high stoop added, while #222 retains its balcony with cast iron balustrade and low stoop entrance.

224 East Gordon Street: A small house with fine proportions, this home of the 1850's features brick flat arch window heads, overhead brick cornice and an entrance door with transom lights.

28. LINCOLN AND JONES STREET RESTORATION: The tour turns north on Lincoln Street, passing the Beth Eden Baptist Church, built about 1890. As the route crosses Taylor Street, drivers may glance to the left at a full block of notable houses, all built in the 1800's. Walkers may wish to inspect these row houses more closely by detouring west down Taylor Street. The high-stooped dwellings run from 206 through 224 East Taylor Street.

At Jones Street the tour turns west, passing several of Savannah's most celebrated buildings.

221 East Jones Street: Southwest corner. Here cast iron grilles protect the lower windows, whose lintels and sills are also cast iron, of an outstanding 19th century house. The doorway, approached by marble steps, is highlighted by side and transom lights.

207-219 East Jones Street: Continuing west down the south side of Jones Street is another impressive group of row houses distinguished for their high stoops and artistic detail.

208-222 East Jones Street: On the north side of Jones Street parade notable companions to the opposite row houses—many with converted carriage houses in the rear.

204 East Jones Street: Built in 1854 for Abram Minis and his bride, this elegant house is a perfect example of the English town house —with Italian marble and doorways carved in the Egyptian manner.

The tour turns north on Abercorn Street and approaches Lafayette Square. On Jones Street, continuing west, more row houses appear —further links in the remarkable chain of 19th century dwellings which line Jones Street. Walkers may wish to detour one block to inspect #108 - 124.

201-203 East Charlton Street: Southeast corner of Abercorn and Charlton Streets. Notable for its ornamental cast iron balcony balustrades across the facade and its cast iron window grilles, this house of the 1850's is an eyecatching asset to Lafayette Square.

207 East Charlton Street: South side of Charlton Street. The recently added ironwork enhances the high stoop of this flatroofed 19th century house.

211 East Charlton Street: Next door. With its gable and hip roof and cast iron window pediments, this stunning home is one of Savannah's most superior architectural treasures.

217-223 East Charlton Street: Just a step east of the tour route, these arresting houses all reveal unusual window treatment.

Lafayette Square: Lafayette Square was laid out in 1837, soon after the Marquis de Lafayette, for whom it was named, visited Savannah in 1825. The city limits were extended to Jones Street, and the lovely houses which the tour stresses were begun almost at once.

330 Abercorn Street: Northeast corner of Charlton and Abercorn Streets. Built in 1873 by builder Abraham Snedeker for Samuel Pugh Hamilton, jeweller and prominent citizen, this house is distinctive in its mansard roof, dormers and especially fine cast iron balconies.

—Photo by Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Bell

COLONIAL DAMES HOUSE

At this point walkers may continue north, while drivers circle the square to Landmark #29.

29. COLONIAL DAMES HOUSE: 325 Abercorn Street. Northwest corner of Abercorn and Charlton Streets. On this site a picturesque old crenelated jail was built after the Revolution. Following its demolition, the property was purchased by Andrew Low, an English merchant, who built this elegant Victorian house. The home was later owned by Andrew Low's son, William Mackay Low, who married Juliette Magill Gordon in 1886. During her residence here as a widow, Mrs. Low founded the Girl Scouts of America on March 12, 1912, and in her will bequeathed them the carriage house for their headquarters in Savannah.

Graced with one of Savannah's most stunning ironwork balconies, this home is owned and preserved by the Georgia Society of the Colonial Dames of America—whose members and friends have donated its fine furnishings and splendid old silver.

Among the many "very important people" who visited here were William Makepeace Thackeray and Robert E. Lee. Open 10:30-5:00, Wed., Fri., Sat. Admission $1.00. Group rates.

119 East Charlton Street: South side of Charlton Street opposite side of Colonial Dames House. Mr. Low's friend and associate, William Battersby, built this exceptional Barbados-styled home in 1852. Unique in Savannah, this type of architecture—with its unusual side entrance and walled garden—is often seen in Charleston. Frequently open to the public on spring tours, this house and its incomparable garden are rare treats for visitors.

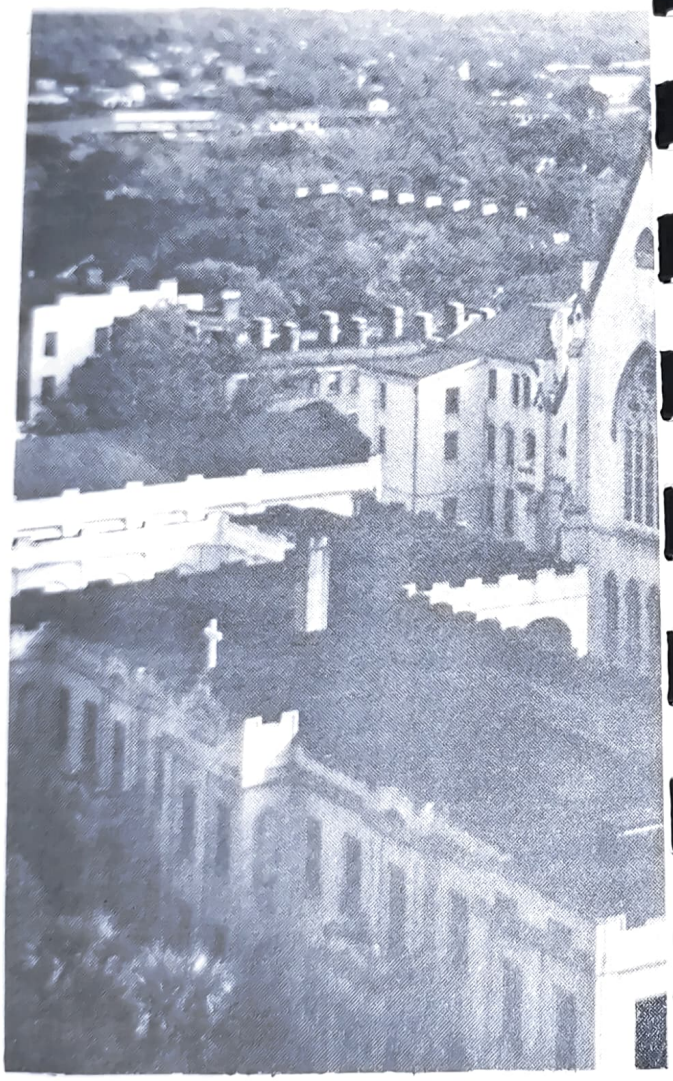
123 East Charlton Street: Completed in 1969, this elegant reproduction follows in complete detail the typical Georgian structure of the 18th century.

Drivers finish circling the square, back to Abercorn and Harris Streets where the tour continues.

30. **CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST:** The oldest Roman Catholic church in Georgia and seat of the Diocese of Savannah, the cathedral has a history that spans 164 years. Organized in colonial times, the congregation of St. John the Baptist erected its first house of worship on Liberty Square; in the 1830's a second, and larger, church was built on Drayton Street at Perry; and in 1876 the magnificent French Gothic Cathedral was dedicated by Bishop William H. Gross —a zealous and indefatigable prelate who superintended the gigantic building task. After the cathedral was tragically destroyed by fire in 1898, rebuilding from the original design by architects Baldwin and Price was begun within the framework of the original walls.

The majesty of the stained glass windows and murals completes the unique splendor and beauty of the cathedral. With very few exceptions, all of the windows were executed by Innsbruck Glassmakers in Austrian Tyrol and were installed around 1900. Visitors will wish to note, in addition to the impressive windows:

- The high altar of Italian marble
- The Chapel of the Sacred Heart
- The Chapel and Altar of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- The Stations of the Cross, imported from Munich
- The Coat of Arms of Pope John XIII
- The Coat of Arms of Bishop Gerard Louis Frey
- The beautiful and detailed wall murals
- The Persian rugs, mainly Sarouks



317-319 **Abercorn Street:** Across from the cathedral. Considered a notable example of its style, this brick house shows evidence of the recent sandblasting which was one of the methods used in its restoration. Note wood cornice and dentils.

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CATHEDRAL OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

207 East Liberty Street: Southeast corner of Liberty and Abercorn Streets. The Sisters of Mercy, a convent which houses St. Vincent's Academy, was designed by Charles B. Cluskey and built around 1845. With its beautiful iron gateways and fence, it is an appropriate adjunct to the cathedral complex.

The tour crosses Liberty Street, a tree-shaded avenue with charming old houses, many of them restored to their original elegance.

202-224 East Liberty Street: Northeast side of Liberty Street. Stretching for a full block to the east, this string of picturesque homes —built in the 1850's—entices walkers to detour briefly for a closer view of yet another spectacular neighborhood in Old Savannah.

31. **COLONIAL PARK CEMETERY**: East side of Abercorn Street. Opened about 1750 and closed to burials 100 years later, Colonial Cemetery was the second public burial ground in Old Savannah. Among the notable Georgians interred here were Button Gwinnett, a signer of the Declaration of Independence; Archibald Bulloch; James Habersham; Hugh McCall, Georgia's first historian; and Edward Green Malbone, the celebrated miniature painter. Visitors are welcome to explore the grounds and to examine the old tombstones and inscriptions.

By installing lights and a tabby sidewalk, repairing vaults and tombstones and providing extensive landscaping, the Trustees Garden Club has restored the cemetery to its rightful beauty and dignity, establishing it as one of Savannah's most historic and beautiful restorations.

Drivers proceed on their tour by turning east on Oglethorpe Avenue, where Walk D begins at Landmark #32.

Walkers make a complete turn at Oglethorpe Avenue, turning south to return to the starting point of Walk C.

217-219 Abercorn Street: West side of Abercorn across from cemetery. Built in the 1850's as an apartment house, this handsome building has attractive dentil details over the windows and unusual cast iron balconies.

124 East McDonough Street: Northwest corner of Abercorn and McDonough Streets. Built in 1860 by an unknown architect as a residence for Alfred Haywood, this imposing brick house is one of Old Savannah's most exceptional structures. Mr. Haywood, an Englishman from Oxford, came to Savannah a decade before the War Between the States and made a fortune by importing ice from the North. He held several offices of trust, serving as the first president of the city and suburban street railroad and as Chairman of the City Council.

231-233 Abercorn Street: Southwest corner of Abercorn and Perry Streets. With its interesting brick details which include segmental arches on the sides and brick quoins, this house was built about 1870.

235-239 Abercorn Street: Next door, to the south. Constructed about 1850 of stucco over brick, this house is noted particularly for its brick parapet and cornice details.

120 East Liberty Street: Northwest corner of Liberty and Abercorn Streets. Note the gable roof, parapets and brick segmental arch window heads of this house which was built in the early 20th century.

125-127 East Liberty: Southwest corner of Liberty and Abercorn Streets. Converted into apartments and a neighborhood shop, this house of the 1870's features twin iron balconies.

Walkers continue south around Lafayette Square. Be sure to visit Landmark #29, the Colonial Dames House, which was described earlier in Walk C. Walk C ends at Jones and Abercorn Streets.

END OF WALK C

WALK D

"COLUMBIA SQUARE AND GREENE SQUARE RESTORATION"

(Walking Time: 1 to 1½ hours)

Drivers continue east on Oglethorpe Avenue along the northern boundary of Colonial Cemetery to Lincoln Street. If they wish, drivers may park by the cemetery and join walkers for a detour on foot which is inserted under Landmark #32. Otherwise, drivers may pick up their tour on page 69 at 204-216 East Oglethorpe (north side of the street).

Walkers begin on the southeast corner of Abercorn and Oglethorpe Avenue, walking east along Oglethorpe Avenue. Before beginning this tour, walkers may wish to read ahead for descriptions of a few outstanding houses which are well-worth a short one-block detour west of the starting point of Walk D.

32. **OGLETHORPE AVENUE:** One of many Savannah streets which were originally designed with wooded center plats, Oglethorpe Avenue was the southern boundary of the colonial city and was called South Broad Street. Once a fashionable residential street, the avenue is quickly regaining its past distinction as the restoration and preservation of its captivating collection of old homes proceeds.

DETOUR FOR WALKERS

Walkers turn west on Oglethorpe Avenue for a one block detour which begins on the south side of the avenue.

113 East Oglethorpe Avenue: Located mid-block, this wood and stucco house with its airy two story porch is considered one of the city's finest buildings.

—Drawing by Ray Dilley

ROW HOUSE, OGLETHORPE AVENUE

111 East Oglethorpe Avenue: Significant as a very good example of its 19th century style, this quaint wood frame house remains intact as originally designed.

107 and 109 East Oglethorpe Avenue: Probably similar in design originally, these two houses were constructed about 1820 by Thomas Clark, a master mason from New Jersey. Both of these exceptional

houses feature Flemish wood brickwork, high stoop entrances with brownstone steps and wrought iron railings, and doorways with elliptical arches.

101-105 East Oglethorpe Avenue: Quite remarkable as examples of their style, these two houses, joined by a cast iron balustrade at the sidewalk, are similar in design—with the exception of their porticos, which were added sometime after their original construction about 1836. Joseph E. Johnston, gallant Confederate general, was an insurance agent in Savannah after the War Between the States and lived at #105. Today a plaster bust of General Johnston and other memorabilia of the Confederacy remain in this beautiful home.

Walkers now cross Oglethorpe Avenue to the north side and return to the start of Walk D by passing the following houses:

110 East Oglethorpe Avenue: North side of Oglethorpe Avenue, just east of Drayton Street. Popularly named the Lachlan McIntosh House for Revolutionary War General Lachlan McIntosh, one of its later owners, this captivating old brick house—believed to be the oldest brick house in Georgia—was built about 1770 for use as a tavern by John Eppinger. Although the third story and ironwork were 19th century additions, the low stoop entrance, stone steps and floor, and transomed doorway remain as original "spectators" to the many historical events which transpired in this place of importance in early Savannah: balls, public meetings and religious services were held here; on these premises the first constitutional session of the Georgia legislature met in 1783; Governor Treutlen favored the tavern as a dining spot during his frequent visits; and George Washington visited it during his stay in Savannah in 1791.

112-114 East Oglethorpe Avenue: Notably fine architecture, about 1880, this pair of houses illustrates one of the practical uses of restoration—half being a residence and half a modern office.

116 East Oglethorpe Avenue: In 1868 when this fine brick dwelling was erected, the local paper cited it as "one of the most stylish structures" in the city. Its unusual bay window, which projects over the curved stairway, still distinguishes it today.

122 East Oglethorpe Avenue: Endearing for its modesty and understatement, this charming house has been a favorite study for authorities of 18th century architecture who credit the wooden story and a half to the mid-1700's and the first brick stoop to 1820. Sheltering one of Savannah's loveliest gardens, the house is a treasured tribute to early Georgia.

124-126 and 132 East Oglethorpe Avenue: Noteworthy as three high-stooped neighbors, these homes were all constructed in the late 1800's.

END OF DETOUR

Walk D now begins officially. Walker's may remain on the north side of Oglethorpe Avenue for a close view of the homes or they may return to the south side (as the map shows) for a view which offers a better perspective.

Drivers continue east on the south side of Oglethorpe Avenue.

204-216, 220 and 224 East Oglethorpe Avenue: Beginning at the northeast corner of Oglethorpe and Abercorn, these notable 19th century row houses are high stooped and iron bedecked in the tradition of their enduring style.

228-230 East Oglethorpe Avenue: Mid-block. Adjoining famous Marshall Row, these row houses were built about 1854. Note brick work, dentil trim, ironwork and doorways.

236-244 East Oglethorpe Avenue: Completing the block to Lincoln Street. Marshall Row, as the next four Savannah gray brick buildings are named, was built about 1854. Well-deserved are the national accolades bestowed upon its architecture—which has been ably restored. Note the dignity of its style, its marble steps and porches, and details at the roofline. For the story of its restoration, see page 86.

Drivers and walkers turn north on Lincoln Street. In turning, note the fine view of the rear of the Marshall Row buildings.

133-141 Lincoln Street: Stretching to the southwest corner of Lincoln and York Streets. Wooden entrance porches provide a graceful touch to these handsome brick dwellings built about 1870.

140-142 Lincoln Street: Across the street, northeast corner of Lincoln Street and the lane. Remaining as excellent examples of early 19th century wood frame architecture, these semi-detached dwellings feature the thick wide board siding which is in such demand for restoration today.

134-136 Lincoln Street: Next door. Its famous six-over nine windows provide unusual interest to this frame house built about 1820.

Continue north on Lincoln Street, crossing East York Street.

125-131 Lincoln Street: Northwest corner of Lincoln and York Streets. These fine paired houses were built about 1854 and were rented to prominent Savannahians. The northern house (with a street address at 227 East President Street) was the home of Judge William Law, eminent lawyer and jurist; the southern house (with a street address at 228 East York Street) was the home of General Alexander P. Lawton, Confederate officer, lawyer and American charge d'affaires to the Court of Vienna. During his last visit to Savannah in 1870, Robert E. Lee paid a call here to General and Mrs. Lawton.

130-132 Lincoln Street: Southeast corner of Lincoln and President Streets. Valued as one of the few late Federal houses remaining in Savannah, this clapboard house was built in the very early 19th century, and, as it is restored and used today, offers the visitor multiple attractions. Housing the Crown Colony, an elegant restaurant highlighted by original flagstone flooring, wide beams and antique furnishings—all cozily reminiscent of Old England, the house affords an irresistible old world atmosphere to those who like to combine dining out with architectural sleuthing. In addition to the original Adams mantels, ceilings and molding which enhance this house is the unique interior construction—very likely a forerunner of our present pre-fab constructions: clapboards which have been exposed in the kitchen area reveal studs and joists which were mortised systematically by matching Roman numerals!

The tour turns east on President Street where it passes the entrance to the restaurant at 307 East President Street.

305-307 East President Street: South side of East President Street. Built about 1872, this house has been incorporated into the restaurant. Six-over-nine high window sashes and a gable roof accent its wooden frame facade.

125-127 Habersham Street: On the west side of the square between President and York Streets. This notable brownstone mansion was built about 1850.

Sheftall House: Southwest corner of York and Habersham Streets Considered a rarity in Savannah, both for its excellent architectura style and its age (1805), the Sheftall House was carefully relocate on this corner—where it stands as a tribute to one of the city's mo civic-minded families.

33. **COLUMBIA SQUARE**: The tour partially circles Columbia Square to East President Street where it continues east.

Columbia Square, named as a testimonial to the poetic title of the new United States, was laid out in 1799 and is the hub of activity for Historic Savannah Foundation, Inc., which is housed in the Davenport House (to be described later on the tour).

134 **Habersham Street**: Southeast corner of Habersham and York Streets. One of Savannah's most valuable wood frame houses, this building was constructed before 1814 by Frederick Ball, master carpenter of Savannah. Its gable roof and wide board siding are particularly notable.

130 **Habersham Street**: Northeast corner of Habersham and York Streets. Built about 1870. Notice beautiful wrought iron galleries and gracious, full length windows.

128 **Habersham Street**: Southeast corner of Habersham and President Streets. With its fine brick parapet and cornice dentils, this building has been remodelled in keeping with its original design of the 1850's.

The tour turns east on East President Street, crossing Price Street.

503 **East President Street**: Southeast corner of President and Price Streets. Featuring a high pitch gable roof, gable dormers and chimneys, this exceptional wood frame house was built about 1815.

505 **East President Street**: As was usual in the mid-19th century when this house was built, special attention was focused on the entrance—a high stoop with doorway transom and sidelights.

509 **East President Street**: Next door. Built about 1800, this picturesque dwelling is one of the city's most appealing restored residences and has a fine architectural "pedigree."

34. **GREENE SQUARE:** Laid out in 1799, Greene Square was named for Revolutionary War hero Nathanael Greene who died near Savannah and is buried beneath the huge monument in Johnson Square.

On many of the streets which skirt the square are house markers which record the original colonial street names as they were before they were changed after the Revolutionary War. Today's President Street was King Street, after the Monarch of England; State Street was Prince Street, after the Prince of Wales; and Congress Street (two blocks north) was Duke Street, after the Duke of York.

As the tour rounds the southeast corner of the square, several delightful restorations will beckon walkers a few steps west of the route on York Street.

510 East York Street: Mid-block between Price and Houston Streets. Once the home of Judge George Jones of Wormsloe Plantation, this charming restoration was originally built about 1794. It is reputed to have a well hidden beneath its wide board floor.

—Photo by Waldo Spence

509 EAST PRESIDENT STREET

513 East York Street: Across the street. This wood frame house is valued for its many 19th century features: high pitch gable roof, wide board siding and 6-over-9 windows.

517 East York Street: In this small frame single dormer house Isaiah Davenport and his bride began their marriage during the early stages of his building career. Later they moved to their final residence, the Georgian mansion which dominates Columbia Square.

519 East York Street: Built in the late 18th century, this modest dwelling has one dormer with a shed roof.

133 HOUSTON STREET —Photo by Waldo Spence

133 Houston Street: Southwest corner of Houston and York Streets, where tour rounds the square. Restored as elegant apartments, this handsome residence was built about 1880 and displays to perfection the famous Savannah gray bricks from the old Hermitage Plantation. Tabby mortar (limestone and oyster shells) was used to place the bricks.

131 Houston Street: Northwest corner of Houston and York Streets. A pink gingerbread structure of late Victorian design, this house, with its wedding cake design, has joined the ranks of Savannah's fascinating fun-restorations.

124 Houston Street: Northeast corner of Houston and President Streets. An early 19th century wood frame house with a stucco basement, this building was owned by Isaiah Davenport—probably for rental purposes.

122 Houston Street: Southeast corner of Houston and State Streets. The tour passes here another Davenport building, one of the most picturesque small houses in the city. An excellent example of its kind, it was built about 1820.

542 East State Street: As the tour turns into State Street, this fine wood frame house appears to the right. Built about 1800, its gable roof and 6-over-9 windows make it a distinctive example of early architecture.

536 East State Street: Next door, just off Houston Street. Thi diminutive restoration, built about 1821, is known as Mr. Bacon' house.

117-119 Houston Street: Northwest corner of Houston and Sta Streets. Continuing on State Street, around the square back to Pre dent Street, the tour passes this attractive restoration which was b during the first half of the 19th century and was the first home of Savannah Female Orphanage.

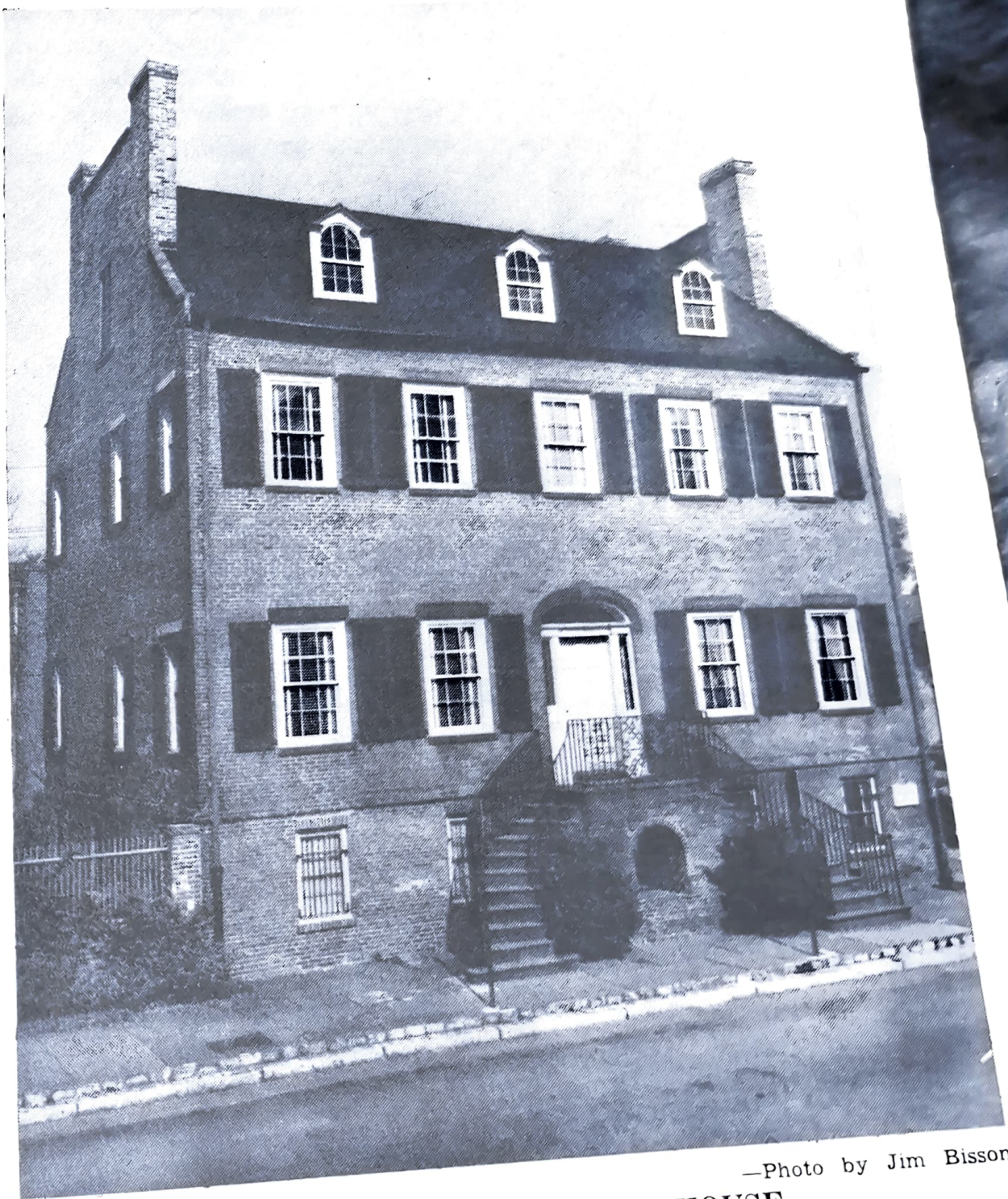
424 East President Street: Northwest corner of Price and President Streets. The tour leaves Greene Square, continuing down President Street back toward Columbia Square. Remaining as another good example of wood frame construction with a gable roof, this house was built about 1815.

402-404 East State Street: Northeast corner of State and Habersham Streets. Similar to a northern colonial house, the Francis Stone house, as this one is known, was built about 1820. Francis Stone was an alderman in pre-Civil War days and was commended for his particularly valuable services during the yellow fever epidemic of 1854.

35. **DAVENPORT HOUSE**: Northwest corner of State and Habersham Streets. The rich architectural detail of the interior of this elegant Georgian house is a delightful surprise to the visitor who has first been oriented to its simple exterior of English brick. Built between 1815 and 1820 by master builder Isaiah Davenport, this dignified mansion ranks among the great Georgian houses of America. Destined for demolition in 1955, it was saved by Historic Savannah Foundation, Inc., restored and opened to the public as a handsome museum. Very fine woodwork and plasterwork, Chippendale, Hepplewhite and Sheraton furniture, and a superior collection of Davenport china highlight its long list of attributes. (See page 84.)

Serving also as headquarters for Historic Savannah Foundation, Inc., this outstanding museum is open 10:00 to 5:00, Monday-Saturday. Closed Sunday. Admission: adults, $1.00; children over 10, $.50.

123 Habersham Street: West side of the square. Remarkably substantial, this terra cotta brick Victorian home with its cast iron cornice was built about 1890.



—Photo by Jim Bisson

THE ISAIAH DAVENPORT HOUSE

302-310 East President Street: Banked to the northeast corner of Lincoln and President Streets. The tour turns west from Columbia Square, back into President Street, and passes this imposing string of late Victorian brick row houses—built in the late 19th century.

36. OWENS-THOMAS HOUSE: Stretching the depth of a full block, the Owens-Thomas House faces Oglethorpe Square on Abercorn Street and is bordered by Lincoln Street at the rear; the tour route, going west down President Street, affords an excellent view of the entire property—the carriage house, garden and mansion.

One of America's magnificent examples of the Regency Period, designed by William Jay and built during 1816-1819, this mansion is distinguished as an architectural treasure by its columned entrance portico, winding double stairway, paneled parapet above the main

OWENS-THOMAS HOUSE

cornice, arched second story windows and rare interior design. The grandeur of the decor and the furnishings express the essence of romantic classicism. As an added attraction, the entire lower floor—with its superbly furnished kitchen, laundry room, wine cellar and larder—has been restored. Visiting here on his American Tour in 1824-25, the Marquis de Lafayette spoke from the side balcony. Open Sunday and Monday, 2:00 to 5:00; other days 10:00 to 5.00. Admission: $1.25. Group and student rates.

The Cluskey Buildings: Across the square between York and President Streets stand the superb Cluskey Buildings. Built by the celebrated Charles B. Cluskey about 1845 as excellent examples of rental property of the highest quality—a distinction their restored offices and apartments enjoy today—these Classical Revival structures are simply designed with brick, brownstone and ironwork in artful combination.

END OF WALK D

Drivers turn north to round the corner of Oglethorpe Square to State Street, where they turn west to Bull.

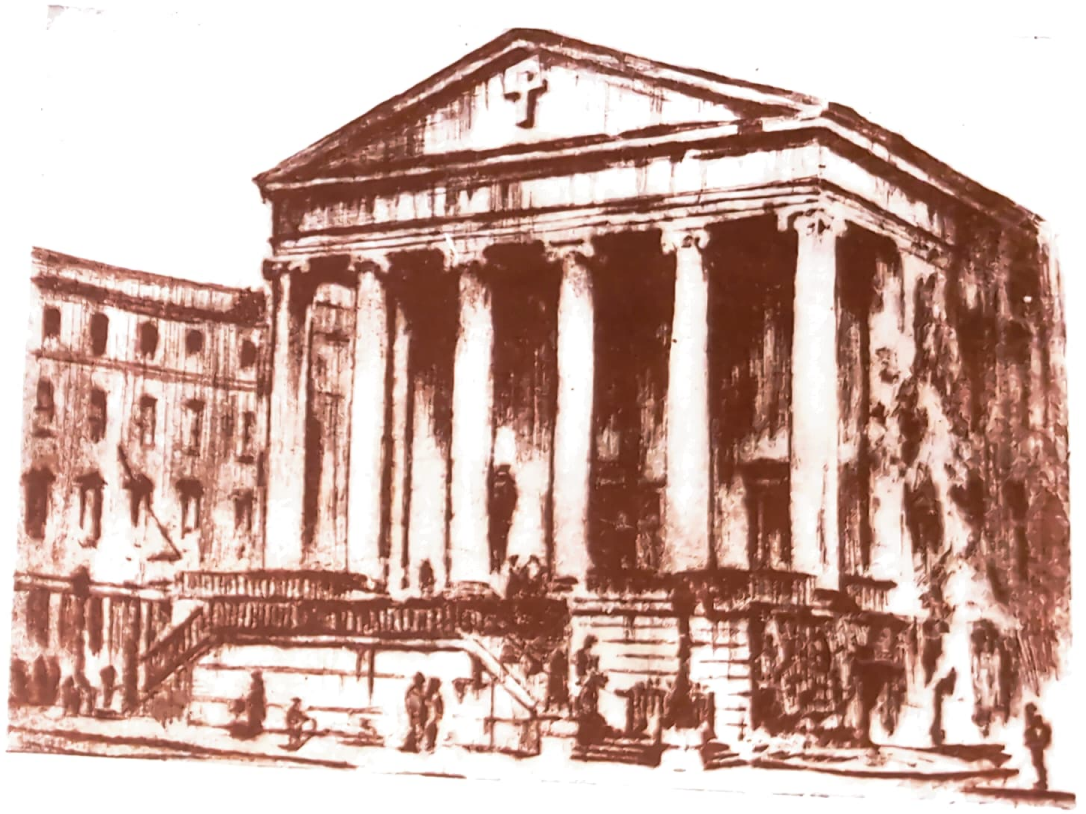
37. LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION: Rising on the east side of historic Wright Square, the Lutheran Church of the Ascension is one of Savannah's most celebrated landmarks. Drivers will have already noted its beautiful facade as they travelled Wright Square earlier in the tour. Organized in 1741 by the Salzburger pastor, John Martin Bolzius of Ebenezer, the congregation worshipped for 31 years in a dwelling used as a hospice for visiting Salzburgers. In 1771 the present lot was deeded to the church and the first frame church building was erected in 1772. After the church burned in 1797, a second frame building was constructed and used until 1843, when part of the present structure was built. The completed stone edifice, showing Gothic influence, dates to 1875-1879. Climaxed by the exquisite Ascension Window, the main sanctuary is one of Savannah's most dramatic church interiors. Open to the public.

—Photo by Foltz Photography

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

38. **CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH:** East side of Johnson Square. Drivers turn north on Bull Street back to Johnson Square where the tour ends at historic Christ Church.

In the very beginning, Savannah was founded as a Church of England settlement, and the nucleus of religious life was Christ Episcopal Church—under the leadership of its liberal minister, Rev. Henry Herbert. Later followed other well known clergymen, such as John Wesley and George Whitefield—both of whom added significant pages to the history of the early colony. With its simple dignity of outline, Christ Church is a perfect example of an early Greek public building. The present building, designed by James St. Couper, was built in 1838, replacing several others which had been destroyed by fire. The impressive columned entrance, a graceful interior balcony and a beautiful plaster ceiling are among its architectural superiorities. Open to the public.



—Drawing by Christopher Murphy

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

END OF DRIVING TOUR

Extra Dividends

A few outstanding historic buildings which are not located on the tour route are described below—with the hope that visitors will make a special effort to seek them out.

The Scarbrough House: 41 West Broad Street. One of the finest of William Jay's Regency houses, the Scarbrough House was built in 1818 for $75,000. Its owner, William Scarbrough, was Savannah's merchant prince who promoted the first steamship, the **S.S. Savannah.** Nowhere else in domestic architecture does one find the grandeur of the atrium, the entrance hall or the portico. In the richly adorned ballroom and banqueting hall gathered generations of Savannahians to entertain such notable visitors as President Munroe and John C. Calhoun. Presently under restoration, the house is preserved by the Scarbrough House Foundation.

Champion-McAlpin-Fowlkes House: 230 Barnard Street. Charles B. Cluskey, one of the architects who influenced greatly the development of the Classical Revival in the South, built this graceful mansion in 1843. His favorite form was the Greek, from the Temple of the Winds in Athens, and he used it in the colossal portico which distinguishes this house. The center hall, which is penetrated by a circular opening, and the rear piazza, enclosed at both ends, demonstrate Cluskey's flair for unusual design.

First African Baptist Church: 403 West Bryan Street. The oldest Negro church in the United States, the First African Baptist Church was organized in 1788 at Brampton Plantation. After occupying its first church on Bryan Street for a number of years, the First African Baptist Church purchased its present property in 1832 and constructed this handsome building about 1859. Led by a series of remarkable pastors, the congregation has continued to improve the edifice—one of America's most historical religious institutions.

The Cottage Shop: 2422 Abercorn Street. In this quaint antebellum plantation cottage, with its distinctive gallery, is now one of Savannah's finest gift shops. Built by John Maupas in 1848, it stood on his mother's share of the extensive Drouillard Plantation.

Industrial Tours

Community-minded and product-proud, Savannah's large and varied industries welcome visitors to their plants and offices. Key industries, with their locations and tour data, are listed below.

JOHNS-MANVILLE CORPORATION
Box 1003. Contact Mr. Will R. Stone, 236-0661, two days in advance. Tours: Mon.-Fri., 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

SAVANNAH COCA-COLA BOTTLING COMPANY
534 E. Bryan St. Contact Mr. C. J. Davis, 232-7101, in advance. Tours: Mon.-Fri.

SAVANNAH ELECTRIC & POWER COMPANY
Port Wentworth Plant. Contact Mr. Arthur M. Gignilliat, 232-7171, Ext. 326, one hour in advance. Tours: Mon.-Fri.

SAVANNAH GAS COMPANY
Trustees' Garden Village. Contact Mr. J. Clayton Haire, 233-0121. Tours: Mon.-Fri., 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

SAVANNAH NEWS-PRESS
111 W. Bay Street. Contact Miss Sophia Herrell, 236-9511, one week in advance. Tours: Mon.-Fri., 10:15 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. Children must be chaperoned. Minimum age, 12 years.

SAVANNAH SUGAR REFINERY
Port Wentworth. Contact Mr. P. M. Blackwelder, 964-1361, in advance. Tours: Mon.-Fri., 9:00, 11:00, 1:30. Minimum age, 12 years.

KAISER AGRICULTURAL CHEMICALS DIVISION
Box 246. Contact Mr. A. C. Truitt, 964-4311, 7 days notice. Tours: Mon.-Thurs., 10 A.M. to 3 P.M. Minimum age, 12 years.

TETLEY TEA COMPANY
Ga. Ports Authority, Bldg. 87. Contact Mr. Clive Hale, 964-1933, 36 hours notice. One hour tour Mon.-Fri., 10 A.M. to 3 P.M.

UNION CAMP CORPORATION
W. Lathrop Ave., Box 570. Contact Mr. Philip Beckwith, 236-5771 (groups of 20-30 people advance notice). 2 hour tour: Mon.-Fri., 10 A.M. to 2 P.M. Minimum age, 12 years.

U. S. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE
Oatland Island, Box 2167. Contact Dr. George W. Pearce, 897-2741, in advance. Tours: Mon.-Fri., 8 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

BYRD COOKIE COMPANY
2233 Norwood Ave. Contact secretary, 355-1716. Tours: Mon.-Fri., from 10 A.M.

WSAV-RADIO & T.V. BROADCAST CENTER
1430 E. Victory Dr. Contact Mr. M. E. Thompson, 236-0303, one day in advance. Tours: Mon.-Fri., 9:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. Children under 10 must be chaperoned.

WTOC RADIO & T.V.
516 Abercorn St. Contact Mr. Dwight Bruce, 232-0127, in advance. Tours: Mon.-Fri., all day.

CITY HALL
Bay and Bull Sts. Contact mayor's office, 233-9321, for appointment or just drop by. Tours: Mon.-Fri., all day.

TRADE WINDS COMPANY, INC.
Thunderbolt. Contact Mr. Henry F. Ambos, Jr., 354-6711, in advance. Tours: Mon.-Fri., 9 A.M. to 5 P.M.

Historic Savannah Foundation, Inc.

1952 Before Restoration

THE DAVENPORT HOUSE 1815 - 1820
324 EAST STATE STREET
MUSEUM AND HEADQUARTERS
HISTORIC SAVANNAH FOUNDATION, INC.

After Restoration

HISTORIC SAVANNAH FOUNDATION, INC. STORY

The National Historic District in Savannah, which comprises over eleven hundred architecturally valuable buildings (dating from the 18th century), covers an area of over two square miles. During the first half of the 20th Century, appalling disregard for the city's architectural heritage had allowed this historic area to fall into a state of decay. Squares laid out as a part of the unique city plan were destroyed. Hundreds of colonial and anti-bellum houses of great merit were demolished or turned into tenements.

Finally, in 1954, after the wonderful old city market had been torn down and replaced by a nondescript parking garage, some of Savannah's leading citizens organized the Historic Savannah Foundation, Inc. and at once saved The Davenport House on Columbia Square. (Pictured on facing page.)

This outstanding example of Georgian architecture was built between 1815 and 1820 by Isaiah Davenport, master builder, for his own use. It ranks among the great Georgian houses of America, having been recognized as outstanding by the Historic American Buildings Survey in 1930. It is now fully restored, handsomely furnished and contains the office headquarters for Historic Savannah Foundation, Inc. The Davenport House Museum is open to the public six days a week.

HISTORY OF RESTORATION IN SAVANNAH

Historic Savannah Foundation, Inc. has spear-headed the movement to revitalize the downtown district. By direct purchase and resale, the Foundation by mid-1971 had saved over 160 buildings, including Marshall Row, an elegant range of four houses built in 1855, which

Marshall Row—
Before Restoration

by 1964, was in the state of decay pictured here. After restoration (below), the houses again present gracious and elegant interiors.

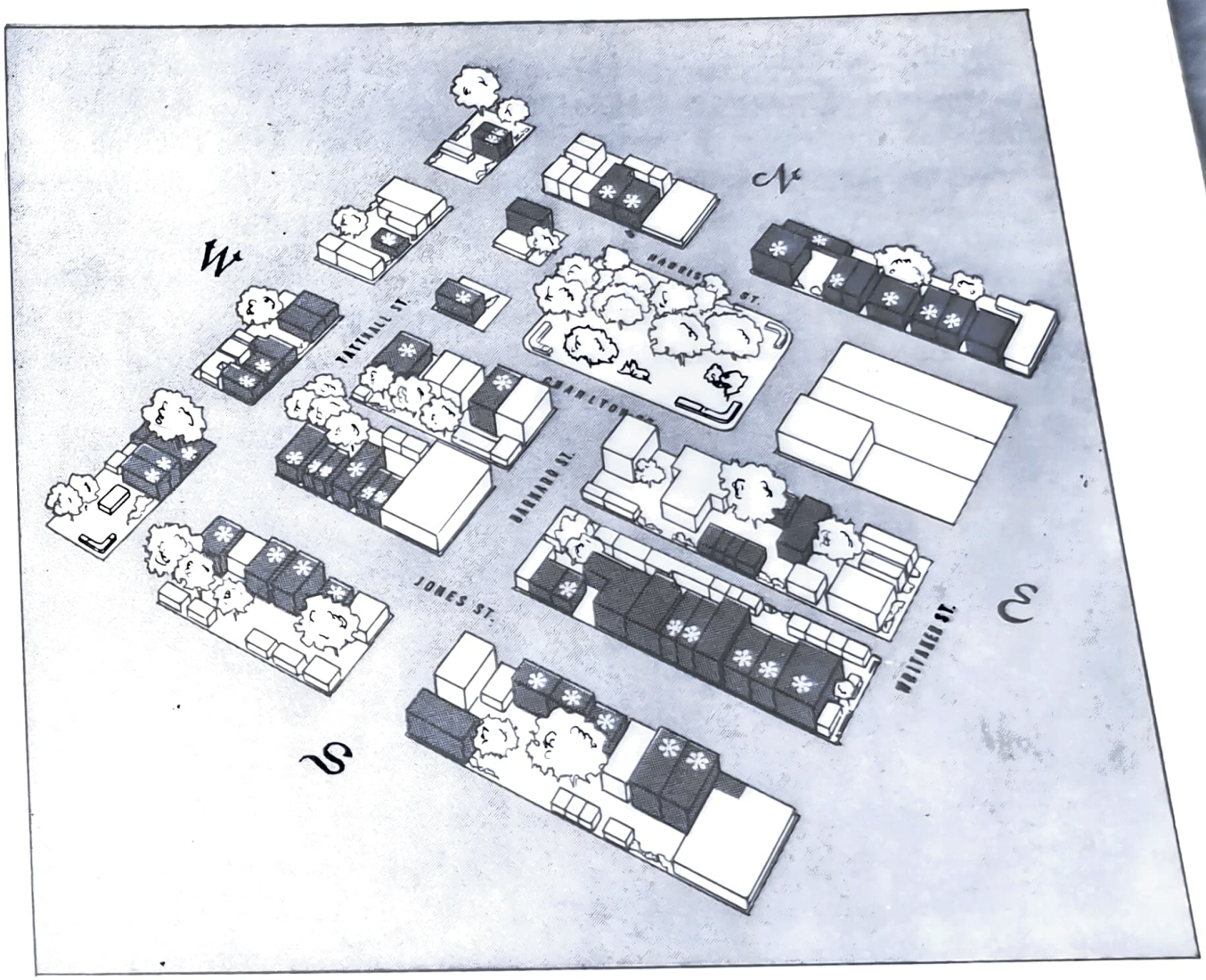
The row buildings, of great importance in Savannah's architectural heritage, had for many years languished in slum conditions. This problem offered one of the most challenging opportunities to Savannah preservationists; consequently the restorations of these styles have been among the most successful.

The before and after photos of recent restoration shown in this section represent a cross section of Savannah architecture from the late 18th to the beginning of the 20th Century and dramatically portray the beautiful modern usage of what were originally grand buildings. We see here examples of an aesthetic and economic renaissance that properly has not been confined to only the great houses.

Marshall Row—
After Restoration

HISTORIC SAVANNAH FOUNDATION, INC. PROJECTS

The real estate policy of the Foundation is to purchase buildings for resale to individuals who would restore them. Operating under a concept called the Revolving-Redevelopment Fund, the Foundation, after recovering the proceeds from the sale of an historic structure, immediately purchases another important building. This procedure is constantly repeated, enabling the funds used for each purchase to be used again and again to save other structures. By so doing, the Foundation has launched several major area restoration projects, one of which is the Pulaski Square—West Jones St. Area Redevelopment Project.



Pulaski Square-West Jones St. Area Redevelopment Project

With the accent on the modern-day use of historic buildings, a potentially beautiful 13-acre downtown area, rapidly deteriorating to near-slum conditions, was selected in late 1965 as the Foundation's

pioneer residential project. Reversing the decline, Historic Savannah Foundation, Inc. expended an original outlay of only $38,000 of Revolving-Fund seed money which, coupled with bank and private loans, has produced over $1,750.00 of restoration in this area alone.

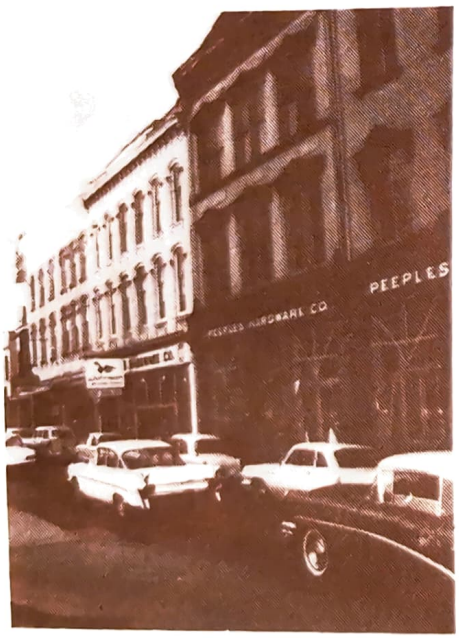
Commercial Revitalization — West Congress St.

The first commercial project by Historic Savannah Foundation, Inc. was launched in the heart of the business district where the demolition of two excellent commercial buildings for a parking lot was threatened.

By acquiring these buildings and leasing them for commercial use, a program of complete restoration of the facades of 17 buildings was initiated and is now in progress. The plan includes the banning of on-street parking, widening and retexturing of sidewalks, planting trees and greenery along the curb, new lighting and rigid sign control.

This voluntary effort produced an increased awareness of the economic value of restoration of commercial property and led to the formation of a Downtown Revitalization Council which is now an important arm of the Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce.

WEST CONGRESS STREET



Before Restoration

After Restoration

Private Restoration

The efforts of individual restorers have been of tremendous significance to the revitalization of downtown historic properties. The East St. Julian St. area, consisting of two blocks of late 18th and early 19th Century houses between Washington and Warren Squares, is being completely restored, including the relandscaping of the squares.

Mongin House—
Before Restoration

Outstanding among these private restorations (see Walk A) is the John D. Mongin House, 1797, pictured here before and after restoration. Some other important private restorations which are transforming entire areas are: the entire Trustees' Garden section (see Walk A), Greene Square area (see Walk D), Madison Square area (see Walk B), Monterey Square area (see Walk B), Liberty Street, and East and West Jones Street.

Mongin House — After Restoration

ECONOMIC IMPACT OF PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION

The impact of restoration on Savannah has greatly increased the city's economic vitality. Over 10 million has been privately invested in downtown restoration over a five year period, accomplishing the rehabilitation of over 75% of the buildings rated valuable by Historic Savannah Foundation, Inc.

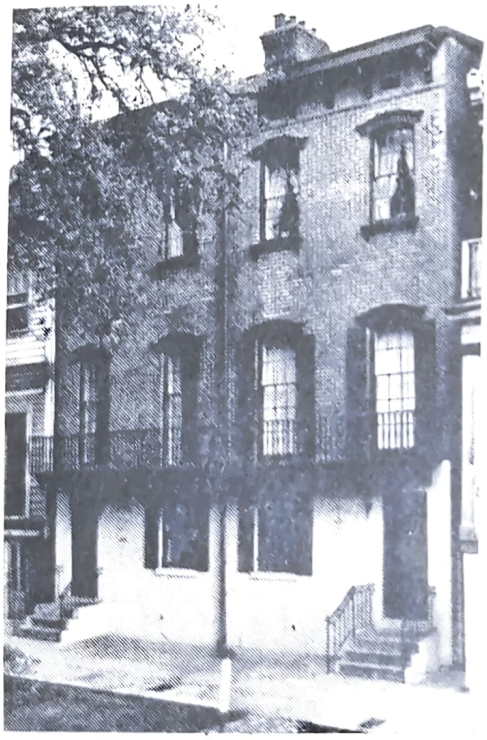
Exterior—Before Restoration

214 WEST JONES STREET

Real estate transactions and construction activities have greatly increased. The revitalization of downtown property has added a significant amount of new assessments to city and county tax rolls.

Increased activities in the Historic District have proved a boon to the central city mercantile and banking district, making the downtown area once again a living central city area.

Of the major results of restoration in the Historic District, renewed tourist interest is perhaps the greatest. No longer is Savannah "a lovely lady with a dirty face," for her charm and beauty are again emerging. The wealth of her architectural heritage and the grace of her design are attracting national recognition.



Exterior—After Restoration

GEORGIA DAY CELEBRATION

Annually, Historic Savannah Foundation, Inc. sponsors the GEORGIA DAY CELEBRATION, a community-wide endeavor which focuses local and national attention on Savannah's colonial heritage. Georgia Day festivities culminate on February 12, the date James Edward Oglethorpe landed at Savannah, with a re-enactment pageant of his landing. Hundreds of volunteers and over 150 organizations help to make the CELEBRATION a gala festival each year.

PROPERTY FOR RESALE

FOR RESTORATION

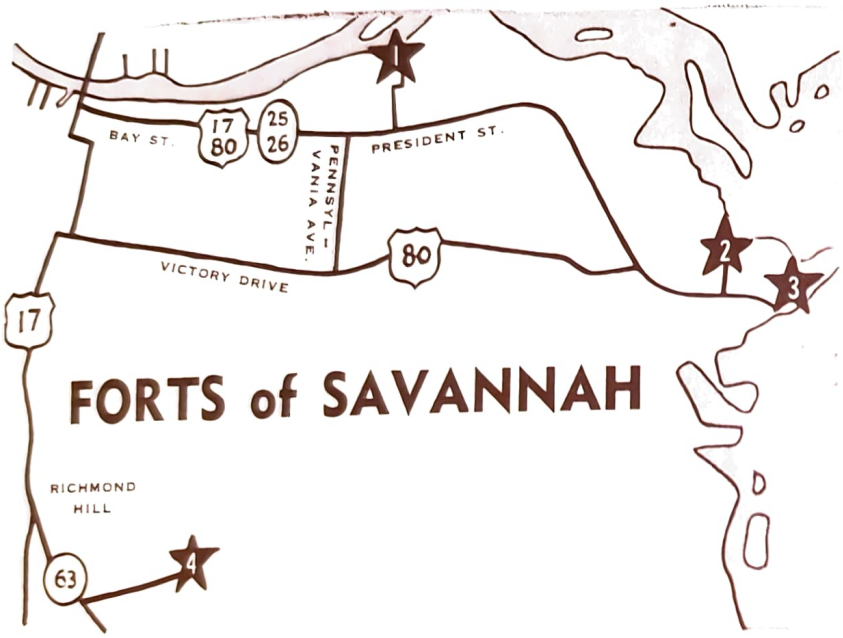
Historic Savannah Foundation, Inc. has a complete listing of historic properties for resale for restoration. Both historic buildings and vacant lots (for new construction) are available through Historic Savannah Foundation by writing to P. O. Box 1733, Savannah, or calling 912—233-7787 for an appointment or more information. Real estate brokers are protected.

The Foundation also offers advisory services on historic documentation and preliminary consultation on exterior detailing for the purposes of restoration.

Four Forts

From the moment of her birth, when she constructed fortifications against the Spanish and the Indians, Savannah has upheld an honorable record of military tradition which is evidenced by the rolls of honor so proudly cherished in her churches and immortalized by four of her most historic forts. These, along with their museums of relics and artifacts, have been opened to the public.

Steeped in battle history, Savannah is a rich resource for annalists of America's military past, and visits to four of her famous forts recreate the drama of some of Georgia's major conflicts. The insert map locates the forts and the following area map also indicates their approach roads.

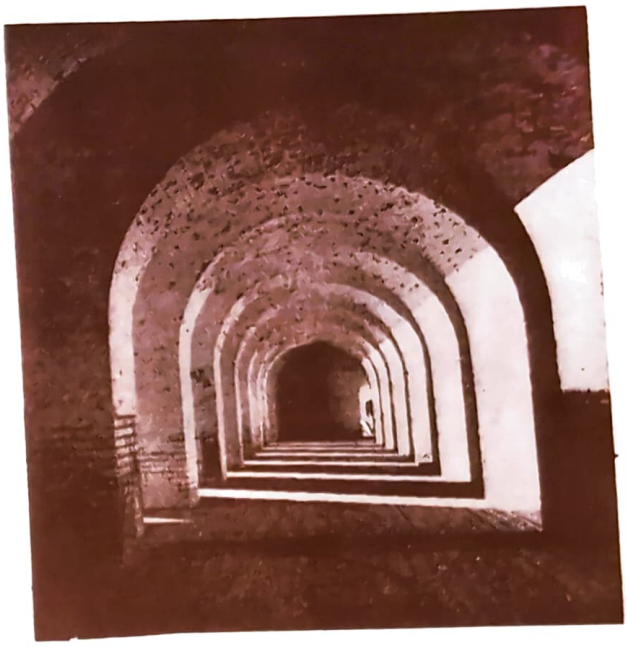


Forts Pulaski, Screven and Jackson are all featured in Excursion IV. Fort McAllister may be reached by a short detour from U. S. #17 South, as described in Trip No. 2.

Among the old volunteer companies, which are still honored by their descendants and the city, were the Chatham Artillery, Savannah Volunteer Guards, Republican Blues and the Georgia Hussars.

FORT JACKSON: Restored as an important link in the fort chain along the Savannah River, Fort Jackson is a handsome brick fortification, the offspring of a Revolutionary War battery which was bought by the federal government in 1808; garrisoned during the War of 1812; rebuilt in 1842; and occupied by Confederates during the War Between the States. The fort, with its large maritime museum, is open Monday-Saturday 9:00 to 5:00, Sunday 1:00 to 5:00. Admission, free.

FORT PULASKI: Named for that gallant Pole, Count Casimir Pulaski, Fort Pulaski was built between 1829 and the mid-1840's on Cockspur Island to guard the sea-approach to Savannah. Its towering walls, wide drawbridge and two moats recapture the past when the fortress was considered impregnable. Among the engineers who raised its massive ramparts was young Robert E. Lee, West Point graduate. Occupied by Confederate troops in 1861, the fort fell to Union forces in April, 1862, when they overcame it with rifled cannon, the first used in warfare. Fort Pulaski was proclaimed a National Monument in 1924, was restored and is now operated by the U. S. Park Service. Fort and Visitor Center open daily. Call for hours and prices.

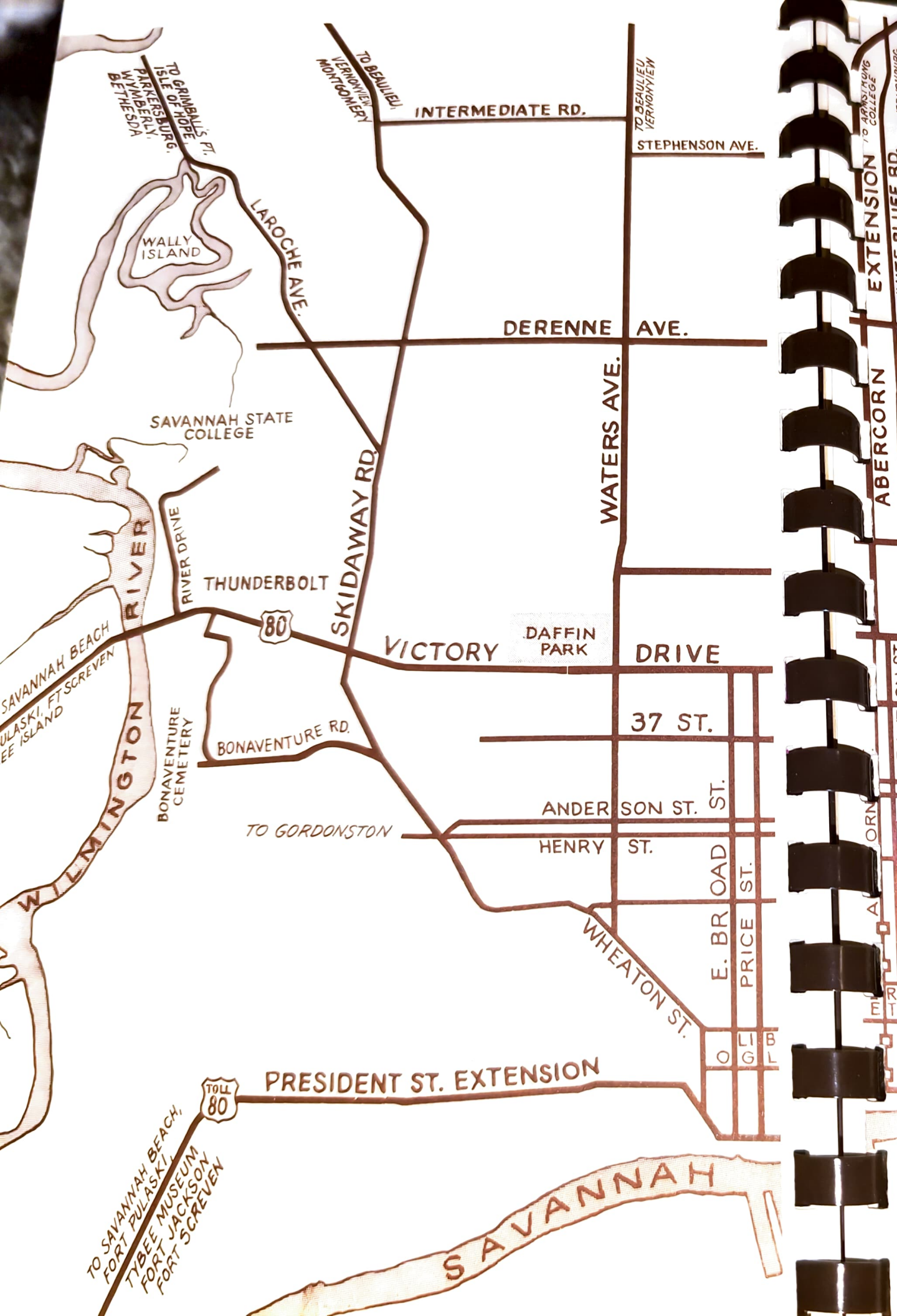


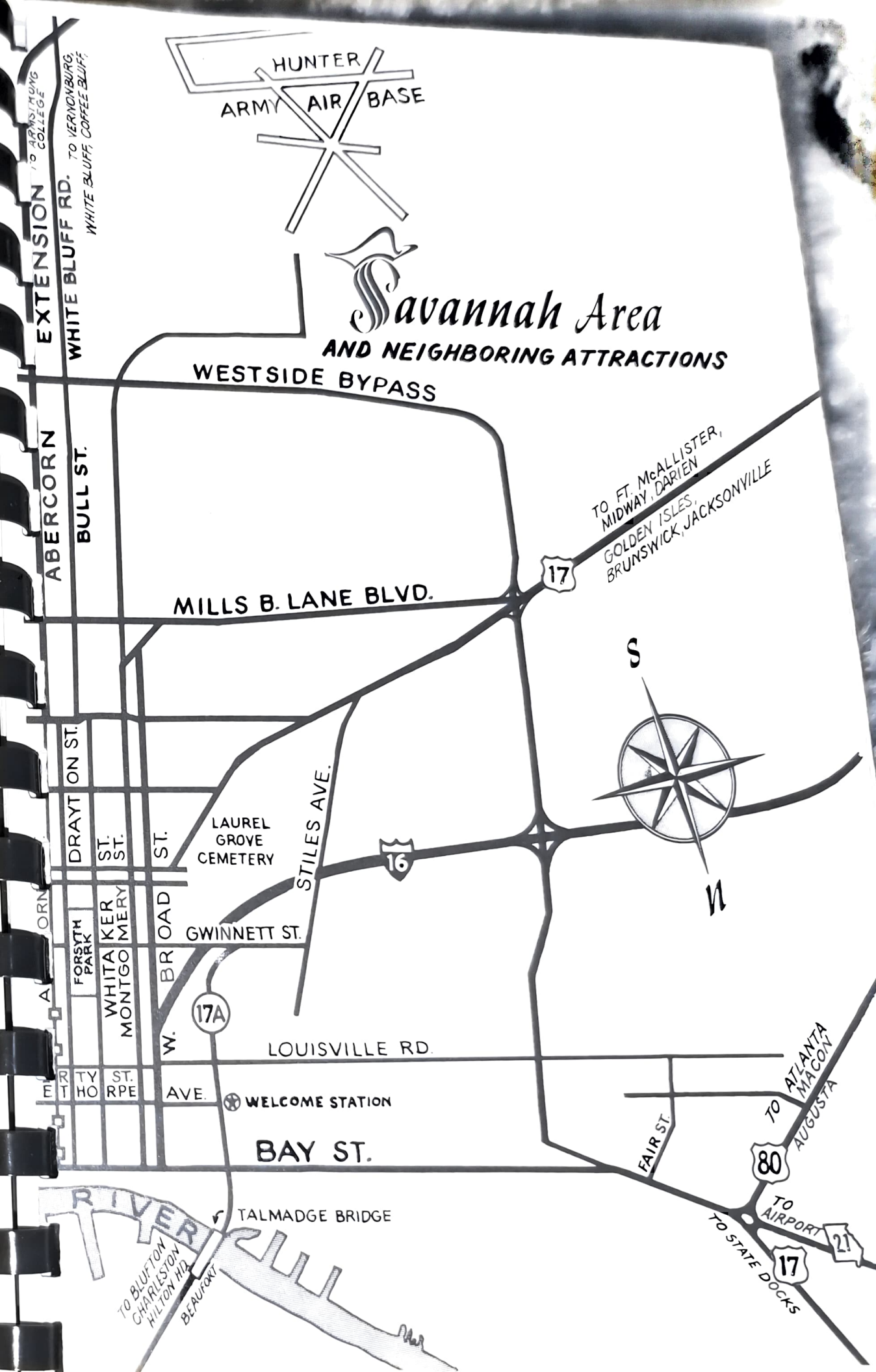
—Photo by Garland Truit

CASEMENTS AT FORT PULASKI

FORT SCREVEN: Built in 1875, Fort Screven was manned during the Spanish-American War, World War I and World War II—when General George C. Marshall commanded it. This modern beach fort, never actually restored, captivates visitors who marvel at private residences nestled atop its walls, its magnificent view of the Atlantic and the Savannah River, and the panorama of local history which its museum depicts. Not restored. Next to Tybee Museum.

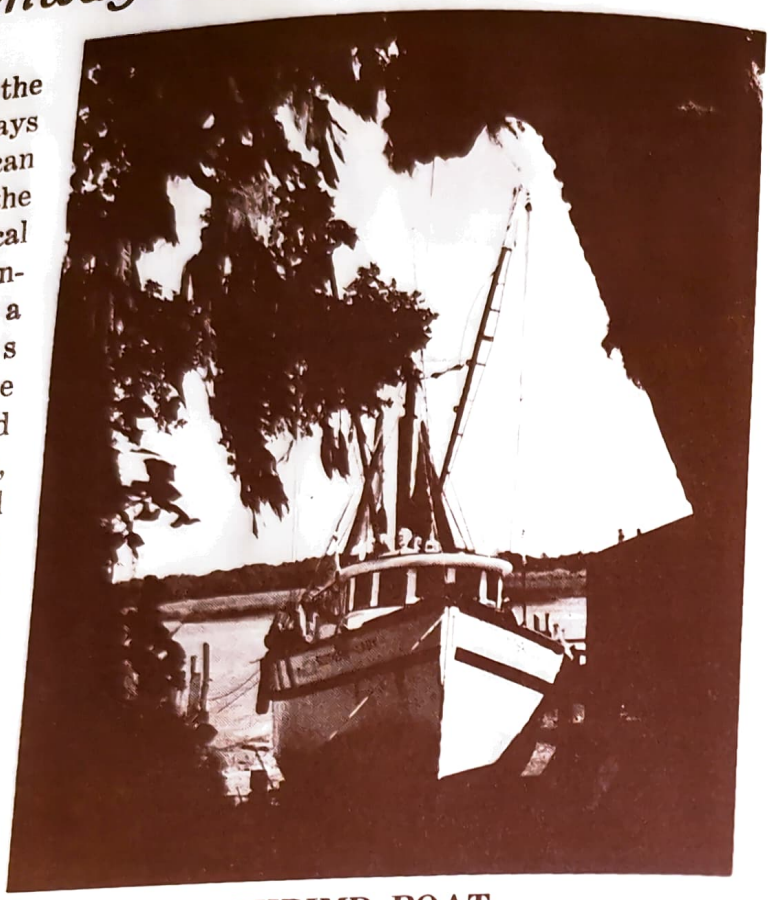
FORT McALLISTER: Located on the south bank of the Great Ogeechee River, Fort McAllister is an outstanding example of Confederate earthwork fortifications. Built in 1861-1862 to guard the "back door" to Savannah, it denied the use of the river to Union vessels; protected a vital railroad trestle; and preserved the river rice plantations (for one of which it was named) from Union raids. During 1862-1863 it repulsed seven attacks by armored vessels and, as one of Sherman's major objectives in his March to the Sea, finally fell on December 13, 1864, when Union forces captured it from the rear. Restored fort and museum open 9:00 to 5:30 Tues.-Sat., 1:00 to 5:30 Sun. Free.


TO GRIMBALL'S PT.
PARKERSBURG
WYMBERLY
BETHESDA
TO BEAULIEU
VERNONVIEW
MONTGOMERY
INTERMEDIATE RD.
TO BEAULIEU
VERNONVIEW
STEPHENSON AVE.
TO ARMSTRONG COLLEGE
EXTENSION
ABERCORN
WALLY ISLAND
LAROCHE AVE.
DERENNE AVE.
WATERS AVE.
SAVANNAH STATE COLLEGE
SKIDAWAY RD.
RIVER DRIVE
THUNDERBOLT
80
VICTORY
DAFFIN PARK
DRIVE
SAVANNAH BEACH
PULASKI, FT SCREVEN
TYBEE ISLAND
WILMINGTON RIVER
BONAVENTURE CEMETERY
BONAVENTURE RD.
37 ST.
ANDERSON ST.
HENRY ST.
TO GORDONSTON
E. BROAD ST.
PRICE ST.
WHEATON ST.
TOLL 80
PRESIDENT ST. EXTENSION
TO SAVANNAH BEACH,
FORT PULASKI,
TYBEE MUSEUM
FORT JACKSON
FORT SCREVEN
SAVANNAH


HUNTER
ARMY AIR BASE
Savannah Area
AND NEIGHBORING ATTRACTIONS
TO ARMSTRONG COLLEGE
EXTENSION
WHITE BLUFF RD.
TO VERNONBURG, WHITE BLUFF, COFFEE BLUFF
WESTSIDE BYPASS
ABERCORN
BULL ST.
TO FT. McALLISTER, MIDWAY, DARIEN
GOLDEN ISLES, BRUNSWICK, JACKSONVILLE
17
MILLS B. LANE BLVD.
S
N
DRAYTON ST.
ST. ST.
BROAD ST.
LAUREL GROVE CEMETERY
STILES AVE.
16
FORSYTH PARK
WHITAKER MONTGOMERY
GWINNETT ST.
17A
W.
LOUISVILLE RD.
TYBEE
ST. THOMAS AVE.
WELCOME STATION
BAY ST.
FAIR ST.
TO ATLANTA MACON AUGUSTA
80
TO AIRPORT
21
17
TO STATE DOCKS
RIVER
TALMADGE BRIDGE
TO BLUFTON CHARLESTON HILTON HD
BEAUFORT

Highways and Byways

Only by exploring the highways and byways skirting Savannah can the visitor grasp the scope of the historical heritage of the Savannah coastal area where the marshes and rivers frame points of interest noted for their antiquity, charm and unspoiled beauty. Each of the following excursions highlights attractions located on the preceding Area Map; each may be visited in an hour or two, allowing the visitor leisure for browsing, photographing and strolling.



SHRIMP BOAT

Travel Savannah's Highways and Byways
with a Professional Guide

SAVANNAH VISITORS SERVICE, INCORPORATED

BY THE HOUR OR THE DAY — BY BUS OR BY CAR

For Rates and Information

Savannah Visitors Service Office 233-3597

Savannah Area Chamber of Commerce 233-3067

AAA 234-2516

Georgia Welcome Center 234-6855

EXCURSION II

BONAVENTURE - THUNDERBOLT

(Driving Time: About 1 hour)

VICTORY DRIVE: Points of interest in Excursion II may be reached by going east on Victory Drive, an extension of U. S. Highway 80. Victory Drive, a memorial to the servicemen of World War I, is one of Savannah's most spectacular streets—world-famous for its three miles of imposing palms, lavish azaleas and stately mansions. The drive ends at the Wilmington River where Excursion II continues to Thunderbolt.

THUNDERBOLT: To reach Thunderbolt, turn right on River Drive, just before the bridge over the Wilmington River. Originally an old Indian village, Thunderbolt derives its name from an old tradition which tells of a bolt of lightning that struck here, causing a spring of clear water to gush forth. Picturesque and profitable, the quaint harbor is the center of Savannah's shrimp industry, whose workers in late afternoon bustle to and from the laden shrimp boats tied at dockside. Yachts and colorful small craft crowd these waters, many of them following the inland waterway between the North and Florida.

SAVANNAH STATE COLLEGE: To reach Savannah State College follow River Drive as it curves west to become Falligant Avenue; continue to College Street where the campus begins. Founded in 1890, Savannah State College serves nearly 2,000 students who profit from a modern curriculum housed in gracious old buildings in a tranquil, traditional setting.

BONAVENTURE CEMETERY: Return to River Drive and follow it north across Victory Drive to Mechanics Avenue where it becomes Bonaventure Road. As the road curves west, the cemetery gates appear to the right. Open from dawn until dusk, Bonaventure Cemetery is guarded by 200 year old live oaks which trail their mosses over

the graves of many of Savannah's heroic statesmen, citizens and soldiers. Originally the home of Colonel Mulryne, Bonaventure became the plantation home of Mary, Colonel Mulryne's daughter, and her husband Josiah Tattnell in 1760. The property was cherished by their descendants until it was sold in 1847 for use as a cemetery. Luxurious with camellias, wisteria, azaleas and yellow jasmine, and canopied by magnolia, live oak and dogwood trees, Bonaventure is a paradise of natural beauty, one of the nation's most photographed river front gardens.

GORDONSTON AND "DAISY'S GATES": Follow the Bonaventure Road west from the cemetery gates and continue to Skidaway Road; follow Skidaway north past the gates of Gordonston to Edgewood Road: turn right and follow Edgewood Road to the iron-fenced Girl Scout Memorial Park. Originally the site of a farm owned by the family of William Washington Gordon II, Gordonston became one of Savannah's most pleasant garden suburbs when it was subdivided in the 1920's.

Bordered by Edgewood Road and Gordonston Avenue, the Girl Scout Memorial Park was left to the children of Savannah by Juliette Gordon Low, founder of the Girl Scouts of America. Set in the Edgewood Road section of the park's fence are the celebrated "Daisy's Gates," creative masterpieces by Juliette "Daisy" Low who personally designed, fired and hand-wrought their ironwork for her English estate. Although the gates have been removed for repair, their side panels, also by Mrs. Low, remain on view.

Return to the city via Skidaway Road.

END OF EXCURSION II

Say you saw it in "Sojourn in Savannah!"

EXCURSION III

SUBURBS ON THE MARSHES

(Driving Time: About 3 hours)

No experience quite matches the delight of driving along the salt rivers and marshes where the suburban communities of Grimball's Point, Isle of Hope, Beaulieu, Vernon View, White Bluff and Coffee Bluff have assembled some of Savannah's most beautiful homes and gardens in an idyllic setting of unspoiled natural beauty.

The road follows Victory Drive east to Skidaway Road, turns right and follows Skidaway Road to LaRoche Avenue where it winds left following the route where once the famous American Grand Prize and Vanderbuilt Cup races were held. LaRoche turns left through Parkersburg, once a large plantation, and intersects with the Grimball Point Road, a full left turn.

GRIMBALL'S POINT: (about 3 mi.) Surrounded by beautiful gardens of azaleas and oaks, the private homes at Grimball's Point adorn one of Savannah's most secluded waterfront sites where winding lanes assure its residents pastoral privacy.

ISLE OF HOPE: (1 mi.) Return to LaRoche Avenue, follow it south into Bluff Road which continues south, tracing the Isle of Hope.

On the high shell bluff are built dignified old houses with fascinating histories, several of them dating from the early 1800's when they were used as summer homes.

WORMSLOE PLANTATION: (just under 1 mi.) Bluff Road turns sharp right and leads into the Avenue of Pines with a left turn. Follow it to Richmond Drive and turn right; Wormsloe's fenced park and then its imposing entrance will appear to the left.

Settled by Noble Jones, one of Georgia's first colonists, Wormsloe was received into the family by a royal grant in 1756 and remains today as the only Savannah plantation still in the possession of its original owners. With the building of its first fort in defense against the Spanish, Wormsloe began its long tradition of protecting the waterways—aiding Savannah during both the Revolution and the War Between the States. Remains of a second fort, built of tabby in 1741, still "guard" the river. In addition to its loyal defense of the colony, the Jones family is noted for its contributions to the medical, cultural and civic life of the community, and, as testimony to its unexcelled collections of rare Georgia documents and manuscripts, a classic marble library stands near the three story mansion in a garden unequaled anywhere in the South. The plantation is often open to the public during the peak of its spring glory. Information regarding tour dates may be obtained from the Chamber of Commerce.

BETHESDA: (2 miles) Richmond Road intersects the Parkersburg Road, which becomes Skidaway Road right at Wormsloe. Follow Skidaway Road west through Wymberly, now a subdivided plantation, to Ferguson Avenue; continue south to Bethesda whose dairy farm fence appears to the left and leads to the entrance.

BETHESDA HOME FOR BOYS

Bethesda was founded in 1740 by Reverend George Whitefield and stands as the oldest existing orphanage in America; it provides today, as a home for boys, educational, vocational and cultural programs whose graduates are men of fine character and ability. The home suffered serious setbacks from 1770 until 1867, being twice destroyed by fire and removed to various other locations for temporary periods. The present building was built in 1855 by the Union Society, trustees of Bethesda, and has been continuously occupied since 1867. Set in a fine sweep of land, Bethesda is a natural beauty spot, enhanced by a lovely chapel, the Whitefield Memorial, which was erected by the Georgia Society of Colonial Dames in 1925; by an outdoor waterfront theater, the gift of the Trustees Garden Club; and by Cohen Hall, its newest dormitory, constructed in 1949. Visitors are welcome.

VERNON VIEW: (about 3 mi.) Continue south on Ferguson Avenue, turn left on Shipyard Road, and follow it across the marshes to Vernon View which begins at Center Street. Continue on Center Street into McAlpin Street; turn left on McAlpin and left again on Cushing; then turn left on Sullivan which completes the circle through Vernon View back to Center Street. At Center Street, turn right on Shipyard Road to continue the tour.

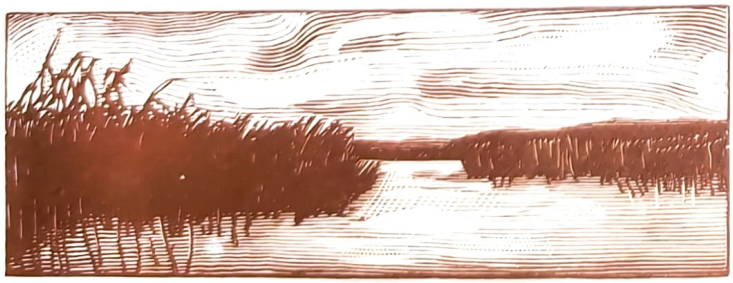
Overlooking the Burnside River, nearby its neighbor Rio Vista on the Back River, Vernon View is a charming little community whose homes on the high bluff command an excellent view of the inland waterway between New York and Florida.

BEAULIEU: (nearly 2 mi.) Retrace Shipyard Road, going west into Beaulieu Avenue; turn left and follow the curves of Beaulieu Avenue past Beaulieu's estates, turning right at Whitfield Avenue. To the left lies Montgomery.

The road through Beaulieu leads behind the homes, affording only occasional glimpses of the Vernon River on whose grassy banks Count d'Estaing landed his forces in 1779 during the Revolution. Civil War batteries were also erected here. First settled as the plantation home of William Stephens, Beaulieu later became a summer resort and today is shared by year-round residents who maintain beautifully landscaped estates.

VERNONBURG AND WHITE BLUFF: (about 7½ mi.) After driving through Beaulieu, turn right on Whitfield Avenue and continue north on it for 4 miles, passing Halcyon Bluff, to Montgomery Crossroads. (Visitors who wish to interrupt the tour by a detour back to town may leave the tour route via any of the main city streets which bisect Montgomery Crossroads.) Turn left on Montgomery Crossroads, drive 1.3 miles and turn left again on the White Bluff Road (an extension of historic Bull Street). Follow it south for 2 miles past Savannah Country Day School, one of the South's finest independent schools, to Davidson Avenue. Turn left and follow Davidson to Rockwell Avenue; turn right and then right again at Vernonburg Road.

Settled in 1742 by German-Swiss immigrants who occupied themselves in developing the art of silk culture, the town of Vernonburg was located at White Bluff on the wandering banks of the Vernon River. Incorporated since 1866, it is Chatham County's smallest town—where suburban families have established riverfront retreats where boating, crabbing and swimming provide rural relaxation just as they did in colonial days.



COFFEE BLUFF: (3 mi.) Vernonburg Road leads back into White Bluff Road. Turn left and follow White Bluff Road into its extension, Coffee Bluff Road, going south to the Forest River. Stop here for a refreshment break on the river bank. Then turn west at the Carmelite Monastery sign on Back Street (unpaved) and circle back to the Coffee Bluff Road.

Coffee Bluff is part of Rose Dhu Island and was formerly laid out as a park. The bluff was probably named for John Coffee, a colonial landowner who lived near Midway.

The Carmelite Monastery is a cloistered order of nuns who withdrew from the public in 1958. Visitors may speak with the nuns when the turn is open from 9:00 to 11:00, 1:00 to 2:00, and 3:00 to 5:00.

The tour returns to the city by retracing the Coffee Bluff—White Bluff Road, going north. Hunter Army Air Field lies along the White Bluff Road, beginning at Montgomery Crossroads.

ARMSTRONG STATE COLLEGE: (about 4½ mi.) Those who wish to see Armstrong State College may detour left off White Bluff Road, after about 3 miles, into Holland Road which intersects the Abercorn Extension. Turn left on Abercorn Extension and follow it south to the college.

Armstrong State College began in 1935 as Armstrong Junior College, situated in the old Armstrong home on Bull Street; in 1964 it became a four-year institution and in 1965 moved to its present new campus.

To return to the city follow Abercorn Extension north.

END OF EXCURSION III

—Courtesy of Fred Garis

TYBEE ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE

EXCURSION IV

TYBEE ISLAND

(Driving Time: 2 to 3 hours)

A round-trip excursion to Tybee, an Indian word meaning "salt," is especially appealing to families with children who will enjoy the forts and museums en route to the island, the expanse of beach—which is Georgia's summertime playground—and the fishing and boating accommodations which are available along the rivers that weave through the marshes between Tybee and Savannah. Although a cursory trip may be made in less than two hours, many families choose Tybee for an all-day jaunt—complete with swimming, picnicking, sightseeing and exploring. Motels, cottages, rental houses and seafood restaurants provide bed and board for those interested in a longer visit.

Tybee Island may be reached by two convenient routes, each providing its own attractions. It is suggested that newcomers follow Victory Drive, an extension of U. S. Highway 80 (see Excursion II), to the Wilmington River where the first bridge on the Tybee Road begins. The return trip from the island may be made over the Islands Expressway, a toll road which intersects the Tybee Road mid-way between the island and Savannah and ends, via President Street Extension, in downtown Savannah.

WHITEMARSH AND WILMINGTON ISLANDS: The Tybee Road crosses Whitemarsh and Wilmington Islands, both thickly wooded sanctuaries favored by summer and year-round residents who are drawn to the unspoiled terrain, wonderful waterways and the history of the desperate conflicts fought here during the War Between the States. Side trips to the interiors of these islands may be made by brief detours on various side roads which intersect the Tybee Road.

Of special interest is the Savannah Inn and Country Club whose imposing elegance and spectacular golf course command one of the most splendid sites on Wilmington Island. To reach it, turn right on the Wilmington Island Road which intersects the Tybee Road.

FORT PULASKI: Fort Pulaski National Monument can be seen on the left just before the Tybee Road reaches Tybee Island. Regularly scheduled tours and movies, a museum, gift shop, rest rooms and picnic areas are available. Wear low heels! Fort and Visitors Center open daily. Call for hours and prices. See Four Forts, p. 93, for historical information.

FORT SCREVEN: Note signs after entering Tybee Island. The intriguing remains of Fort Screven, one of the last Atlantic coastal forts, now fascinate amateur archeologists, "diggers" and "climbers" of all ages! The tall lighthouse at the north end stands as a beacon to Savannah sailors and provides an endurance test for those wishing to climb. See Four Forts, p. 93, for historical information.

TYBEE MUSEUM: At Fort Screven, artifacts, displays and relics of Colonial and pre-Colonial days are arranged along winding tunnels. Open daily 1:00 to 5:00 except Tuesday (winter) and daily 10:00 to 6:00 (summer). Admission, 50 cents over age 10.

SAVANNAH BEACH: Nostalgically remembered is the rollicking railroad which once connected the mainland to Savannah Beach whose multiple attractions have lured Savannahians and "landlubbers" for generations. Here, it can be said, there is something for all: fishing from the long pier or from the surf, crabbing, boating, surfing in specially designated areas, swimming, beachcombing and picnicking in Memorial Park. The Town Hall Library is open to all who wish to browse, rest or read, and fabulous variety stores offer an array of goods from all over the world.

FORT JACKSON: To visit Fort Jackson on the return trip, follow the Islands Expressway, which becomes President Street Extension, and turn north at the fort sign. See Four Forts, p. 93, for historical information. Especially interesting are the moat and exhibits. Open Monday-Saturday 9:00 to 5:00, Sunday 1:00 to 5:00. Admission free.

END OF EXCURSION IV

Farther Afield

Clustered to the north and the south are close relatives of Savannah—sea island shareholders in her coastal history, topography, low country beauty and cultural heritage. Cloistered and unspoiled, these communities offer visitors an unsurpassable variety of waterfront and historic attractions which may be enjoyed either on day trips or overnight journeys. Restaurants and motels are available.

—By Elizabeth O'Neill Verner

Bluffton, Beaufort, Hilton Head

TRIP No. 1

(Driving Time: Round Trip, Savannah, full day)

The shortest route to nearby South Carolina resorts is U. S. #17A which crosses the Savannah River via the Eugene Talmadge Memorial Bridge. Brochures detailing accommodations and points of interest are available at the Georgia Welcome Center located on the Savannah side of the bridge.

Bluffton, Beaufort and Hilton Head are closely linked and may be visited in one long day, as Trip No. 1 describes, or they may be seen singly on shorter drives of a few hours each—with perhaps an overnight stop scheduled in between. A South Carolina road map will indicate the best route depending upon time and interests.

BLUFFTON: (24 miles from Savannah) Turn right off of U. S. #17 onto S. C. #170 and right again onto S. C. #46. A quaint old village on the May River, Bluffton is the tranquil home of "summer people" and those in retirement. The Church of the Cross, a handsome Gothic cruciform building completed in 1857, is a favorite of artists, historians and all those who seek the secrets of this serene settlement.

HILTON HEAD: (39 miles from Savannah) After driving through Bluffton, continue east on S. C. #46 to Hilton Head Island, one of the nation's most celebrated golf and beach resorts.

Hilton Head is a year-round resort equipped to handle both conventions and family groups (who love the supervised children's programs!) Fine oceanfront inns and cottages are located in the midst of a host of outdoor activities, which include everything from golf on five courses to fishing, bird shooting, tennis, birdwatching and beachcombing.

BEAUFORT: (42 miles from Savannah) From Hilton Head follow S. C. #46 to #462. Turn north at its junction with S. C. #170 and follow #170 to Beaufort. Lavish with landmarks from four centuries of unbelievable history, Beaufort is one of the South's most charming mixtures of past and present. The Beaufort area was explored by the Spanish in 1521, settled briefly by French Huguenots in 1562, colonized by the Scotch Covenaters in 1613 and finally claimed by the English in 1663. The town of Beaufort was chartered in 1712 and survived the Revolutionary War and the Civil War with a flourishing economy built on indigo, rice and cotton.

As spokesmen for this era of prosperity, beautiful old homes line the waterfront areas—one of the most enchanting walking tours in the South. Sight-seeing maps, listing historic sites and landmarks, are available. Annual Water Festival in July.

FRIPP ISLAND: Drive seaward on S. C. #21. As a newcomer to the roster of sea island resorts which provide the best in accommodations and seaside sports in an unspoiled coastal setting, Fripp Island offers an ocean front inn and an 18-hole golf course for those who wish to island hop as they golf.

OTHER BEAUFORT BONUSES: Other side trips out of Beaufort may be planned with the Beaufort Chamber of Commerce. Favorites are Sheldon Church (1746), Parris Island (U. S. Marine barracks and recruiting depot), Hunting Island State Park, Lady's Island and St. Helena's Island.

PIRATES PATROLLED COASTAL COVES

Return to Savannah by U. S. #17 South or go on to Charleston by U. S. #17 North.

END OF TRIP NO. 1

Midway and the Golden Isles

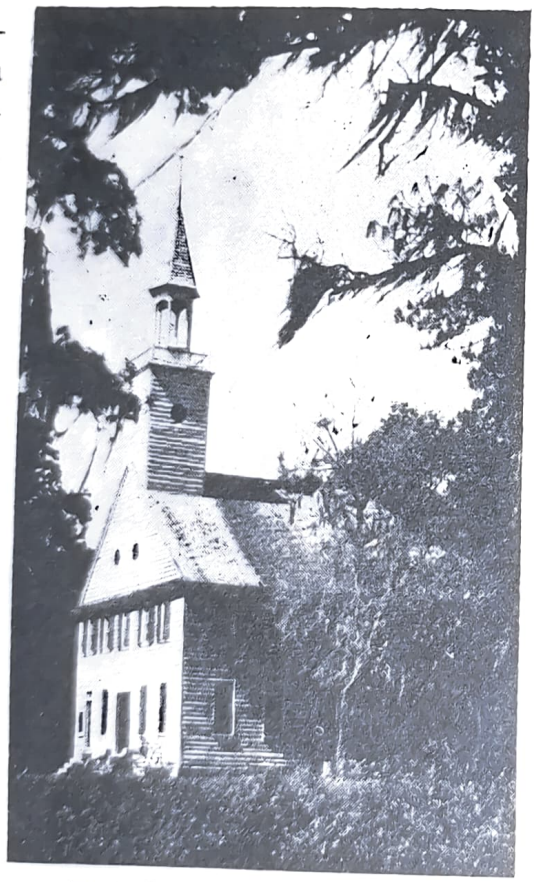
TRIP No. 2

(Driving Time: Round Trip, Savannah, full day)

Follow U. S. #17 South for 86 miles—across the beautifully wooded Ogeechee River; past historic plantations, modern farms and once prosperous rice fields; over the famed Marshes of Glynn to the Golden Isles—a chain of romantic islands joined to the city of Brunswick by causeways. Although it is possible to hit the high spots of this wonderful trip in one day, the attractions are so numerous and the lodgings on the Golden Isles so inviting that an overnight trip — or longer — is suggested.

FORT McALLISTER: Just east of Richmond Hill, where Henry Ford bought an old plantation for a winter home, Fort McAllister is a worthwhile detour. See Four Forts, page 93, for historical data. Fort and museum open 9:00 to 5:30 Tuesday-Saturday, 1:00 to 5:00 Sunday. Free.

MIDWAY: (30 miles from Savannah) Uniquely patriotic with a history which echos one of America's most imposing roll calls of outstanding ministers, statesmen, generals, scholars and scientists, MIDWAY — with its quaint old church and adjacent museum—has an "historical pedigree" unexcelled in our country. First built in 1754, Midway Church was rebuilt in 1792. With its tiny graveyard it stands today as a tribute to its many sons and daughters who helped to shape the destiny of this nation. Visit the old church with its large slave gallery and high pulpit, study its old gravestones, whose inscriptions read like a veritable Who's Who of colonial times, and browse through the Midway Museum, which contains furnished rooms, a library



—Photo by Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Bell

OLD MIDWAY CHURCH

and exhibits. Open 10:00 to 5:00 weekdays, 2:00-5:00 Sundays; closed Friday. Admission, 50 cents; children, 10 cents.

DARIEN: (61 miles from Savannah) Settled by Oglethorpe on Georgia's frontier in 1735 to protect the infant colony from the Spanish were the Scottish Highlanders who founded the little town of Darien. Close by the courthouse is a huge old live oak, so enormous that it is said to have sheltered an entire company of Oglethorpe's soldiers.

THE MARSHES OF GLYNN: Lying between Darien and Brunswick are the Marshes of Glynn, today a State Wild Life Refuge. Georgia's greatest poet, Sidney Lanier, immortalized the incomparable scene by his best loved poem "The Marshes of Glynn."

BRUNSWICK: (83 miles from Savannah) Founded in 1771, the busy port of Brunswick is the gateway to the Golden Isles. A powerful industrial community, Brunswick is noted for its turpentine, rosin, creosote and related commodities. Especially oriented to the needs of visitors, Brunswick's Welcome Center is a gracious host to those wishing information about island accommodations, sightseeing and transportation.

THE GOLDEN ISLES: Beautifully developed for modern living —both private and resort—the Golden Isles offer a kaleidoscope of pleasures in almost every area of entertainment. As a group, their historic sagas fill volumes, and their individual attributes set them aside as paradise islands—each to be enjoyed in its own way. Before crossing the bridges to the islands study detailed brochures about their attractions and accommodations.

ST. SIMONS ISLAND: Heavily wooded St. Simons has been under the flags of Spain, France, England, the U. S. and the Confederate States of America. Near Fort Frederica (open to the public) Oglethorpe defeated the Spanish in the famed Battle of Bloody Marsh; both John and Charles Wesley served as rectors of Christ Church at Frederica. On the south shore is a well-equipped beach resort which offers golf as well as favorite beach-side activities.

SEA ISLAND: Dotted with many beautiful small estates and popularized by its large excellent hotel, Sea Island is world famous as a luxury resort beloved by golfers and lovers of uncommercialized sea-side pursuits.

JEKYLL ISLAND: For sixty years millionaires such as the Goulds, Morgans, Cranes and Rockefellers owned Jekyll Island, using it as a winter hideaway. Purchased by the State of Georgia and operated as a State park, Jekyll Island today is one of the nation's finest family and convention resorts. A new dimension is added to swimming by Jekyll's Aquarama, part of a multi-million dollar convention facility; hiking, camping, museum trips, golf, tours of millionaire mansions and a sightseeing train are special features of a versatile vacation agenda.

To return to Savannah, retrace U. S. #17; or, to continue to Jacksonville, follow it south.

END OF TRIP No. 2

Behind the Scenes

FACTS AND FIGURES ABOUT SAVANNAH AND CHATHAM COUNTY

POPULATION: City, 114,155; county 182,849; trade area 370,000.

LOCATION AND AREA: 24 miles from Atlantic Ocean on Savannah River. City, 21.2 square miles; county 441 square miles.

PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS: Coastal plain. Almost level plateau, elevations from 0 to 200 ft. above sea level.

MAJOR TOWNS: 4 incorporated communities: Pooler, Port Wentworth, Thunderbolt and Savannah, the county seat.

CITY GOVERNMENT: Council - Manager: Mayor, 6 Aldermen, City Manager.

CLIMATE: Average annual temperature 66.4 degrees. Highest mean 81.3 degrees, July; lowest mean 51.4 degrees, December. Average rainfall 48.9 inches. Average humidity 75%.

PORT: Southeast's leading foreign trade port between Baltimore and New Orleans. Served by over 114 steamship lines; 33 deep water terminals.

RAIL AND HIGHWAY TRANSPORTATION: 4 railroads, 4 bus lines, 46 motor carriers. U. S. 17, north-south, and U. S. 80, east-west, will soon be paralleled by completed I-95 and I-16. State roads 17, 21, 204 and 307.

AIRLINES: Travis Field: Delta and National Airlines. Also jet service to Myrtle Beach, Hilton Head, Nassau and other resorts. Call 355-0516.

TELEVISION STATIONS: 4 **RADIO STATIONS:** 6

CHURCHES: Over 200, representing all major denominations.

EDUCATIONAL FACILITIES: Armstrong State College and Savannah State College, 4 year institutions. 60 public schools, 18 parochial, 4 private, 3 vocational, 1 business college.

THEATERS:	10	**GOLF COURSES:**	7
HOTELS:	4	**MOTELS:**	45

MEDICAL FACILITIES: Medical center for entire Coastal Empire. 9 hospitals; over 250 medical doctors and dentists.

NEWSPAPERS: Savannah Morning News and Savannah Evening Press.

INDUSTRY: Over 206 manufacturers. Major products: food, tobacco, chemicals, petroleum, rubber, lumber, plastics and wood products.

EXCITEMENT JUST AHEAD: Completion of I-95 and I-16; construction of State Park and Ocean Science Center; construction of new civic auditorium and convention center.

Festivals, Frolics and

CIVIC AUDITORIUM: Barnard and Perry Streets. Call 233-9321 and ask for the auditorium office, or call Chamber of Commerce, for dates and prices.

Savannah Symphony Society: Concerts presented Fall through Spring on Saturdays at 8:30 P.M. Usually monthly.

Ballet: Several performances yearly by civic ballet companies.

Famous Artist Series: A Fall through Spring series presenting leading concert artists and Broadway shows.

Gospel Singing and Country Music: Also other music. See newspaper entertainment page for dates.

TELFAIR ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES: 121 Barnard Street. Free admission except for certain events. Open daily 10-5; Monday, 12-5; Sunday, 2-5. Call 232-1177 for dates and information.

Exhibits: Permanent collection on view year-round. Also professional exhibits on loan.

Lectures: Topics of general interest by prominent speakers.

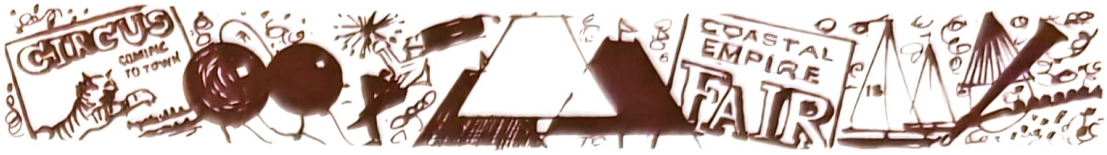
Christmas Trees Around the World: Beautifully decorated trees representing many countries. December. Small admission fee.

ART ASSOCIATION: 3 West Gordon Street. Phone 232-7731. Year-round program of exhibits, classes, movies and lectures. Gallery shop has distinct selection of prints, sculpture and original paintings. Open Tuesday-Saturday 10:00-1:00 and 2:00-5:00.

LITTLE THEATER: 1714 East Gwinnett Street. Phone 233-7764. Fall through Spring. Broadway favorites professionally directed. Occasional summer musicals. Children's Christmas production.

CHILDREN'S COMMUNITY THEATER: For details call 233-6436. Local live productions shown at schools. Professional companies imported to Civic Auditorium.

GEORGIA DAY: Week of February 12th. Historically oriented programs, tours, pageant, exhibits, carriage rides, and river boat rides. Commemorates founding of Georgia.



Serious Pleasures

ARTS FESTIVAL: Near Easter. Downtown outdoor gala. No charge. Exhibits of paintings, sculpture, photography. Band concerts. Performing artists. City-wide concerts. Book sale. Sidewalk cafe. Prizes.

CHRIST CHURCH TOUR OF HOMES: March. Candlelight and day tours of historic homes and gardens. Boat tour. Free Transportation. Call 232-0374 for ticket information.

OTHER TOURS OF HOMES AND GARDENS: Church and garden club bazaars and tours are carried in Sunday paper.

DAILY HISTORIC TOURS: Professionally guided private bus or car tours by Savannah Visitors Service. For rates and details call Savannah Visitors Service 233-3597, DeSoto Hilton Hotel Lobby.

ARMSTRONG STATE COLLEGE: 11935 Abercorn Street. Phone 354-9715. Excellent plays, lectures, concerts and chamber music periodically.

SAVANNAH STATE COLLEGE: Thunderbolt, Ga. Phone 354-5717. Concert, drama and fine art series October through May.

PUBLIC LIBRARY: 2002 Bull Street. Phone 234-5127. Book reviews, lectures, slides, movies, puppet shows, story hours. Free.

SCIENCE MUSEUM: 4405 Paulsen Street. Phone 355-6705. Planetarium, live animal exhibit, beautiful displays of local flora and fauna. Free. Open 10-5; Sunday, 2-5.

PARADES: Veterans Day Parade, Nov. 11; Christmas Parade, near Thanksgiving; Armed Forces Day Parade, May 20; St. Patrick's Day Parade, March 17.

BLESSING OF THE FLEET: Thunderbolt, Ga. Third Sunday in June. Traditional ceremony to bless the shrimp boats. Colorful religious pageant.

COASTAL EMPIRE FAIR: Fair grounds. Usually several days in October. Children's and adult rides; amusement booths; food and gift concessions; live stock exhibits; garden and crafts displays. General admission.

Sports and Family Fun

For further information about events listed below, call Savannah Recreation Commission, Daffin Park, phone 233-9321, Ext. 203.

BASEBALL: May-August. 113 teams; 20 leagues; 23 diamonds. Adult, Muny, Pony and Little League. All leagues playing local, state, regional competition.

SOFTBALL: May-August. 68 teams, 11 leagues. Adult, Boys and Girls League. Local, state, regional.

BASKETBALL: December-March. 55 teams, 9 leagues. Adult leagues. Local, state, regional.

FOOTBALL (MIDGET): Ages 11-14. September-December. 20 teams, 3 leagues. Local, state, regional.

TENNIS: 15 courts open to public from 9:00 'til dark year-round Tournaments. Lessons available. Daffin Park, Forsythe Park.

ARCHERY RANGE: Open to public year-round. In Bacon Park adjacent to Golf Club.

PLAYGROUNDS: Open to public year-round. Supervised Monday-Friday, 3:00-6:30. Organized games, teams, group play. Special events, summer program and teen-age programs.

SWIMMING: Daffin Park. Open in season 7 days a week; 11:30-6:00. Lessons, swim meets. Savannah Beach: swimming, boating, fishing. See page 106. Tompkins Pool also open.

CAMPING: Municipal Camp Ground: 7216 Skidaway Road near Bacon Park. 20 camp sites with picnic tables, water connections, garbage receptacles, restrooms, showers.

PICNIC GROUNDS: East side of Daffin Park. Outdoor ovens and picnic tables.

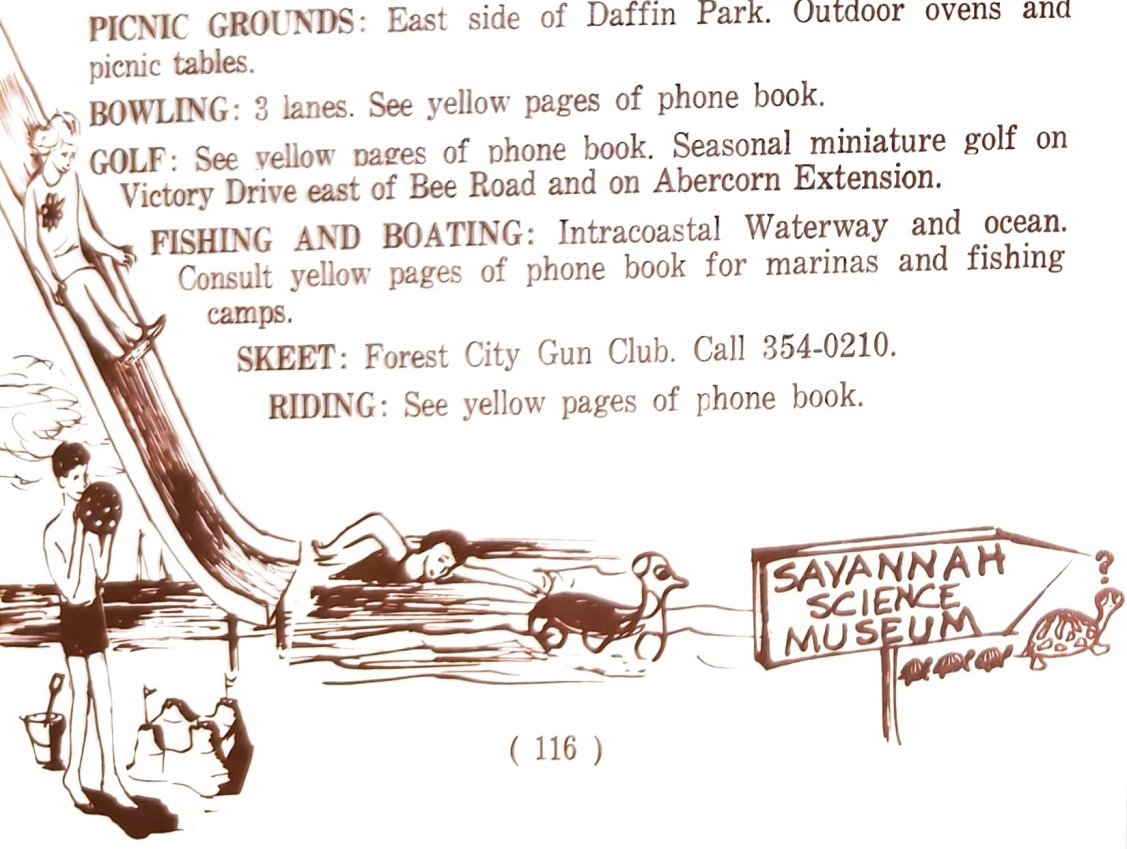
BOWLING: 3 lanes. See yellow pages of phone book.

GOLF: See yellow pages of phone book. Seasonal miniature golf on Victory Drive east of Bee Road and on Abercorn Extension.

FISHING AND BOATING: Intracoastal Waterway and ocean. Consult yellow pages of phone book for marinas and fishing camps.

SKEET: Forest City Gun Club. Call 354-0210.

RIDING: See yellow pages of phone book.



A Child's Guide to Savannah

Activities especially for children are grouped on this page—with cross references to other pages where they are described more fully.

FORTS: Fort Jackson—see pg. 93 and pg. 106.
Fort Pulaski—see pg. 93 and pg. 106.
Fort Screven—see pg. 93 and pg. 106.
Fort McAllister—see pg. 93 and pg. 110.

INDUSTRIAL TOURS: Ideal for older children. See pg. 83.

TELFAIR ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES: art exhibits for older children; Christmas Trees for all. See pg. 114.

THEATER: Children's Community Theater, when scheduled; Little Theater Christmas play. See pg. 114.

FESTIVALS, FAIRS, PARADES: Georgia Day, Arts Festival, Coastal Empire Fair, Parades, see pg. 115.

PUBLIC LIBRARY PROGRAMS: See pg. 115.

SCIENCE MUSEUM: Exceptional for all ages. See pg. 115.

HISTORICAL MUSEUMS: Military Museum—see pg. 27.
Tybee Museum—see pg. 106.
Ships of the Sea Museum—see pg. 28.

BOAT RIDE: Aboard the **Waving Girl.** Call Chamber of Commerce or 234-7248 or 234-9641 for schedules.

GIRL SCOUTS: Visit Juliette Gordon Low Birthplace, see pg. 41.

RIVER FRONT: Drive or walk historic waterfront, see pg. 22-38. Ships and tugs, cobblestones, cotton exchange, city hall, cannon, museums, Cruz del Sur, harbor light, Pirates' House, and haunted house.

SAVANNAH VISITORS SERVICE: Best for older children. See pg. 115.

SAVANNAH SCENIC TRAIN: Miniature train ride through historic Savannah, 2 hours. Call Chamber of Commerce for schedule.

FISHING LAKE: 3-acre lake in Daffin Park. Open year-round for those 65 and over or 15 and under. Stocked with perch, bream, trout. Ducks to feed.

SWIMMING AND SPORTS: See opposite page.

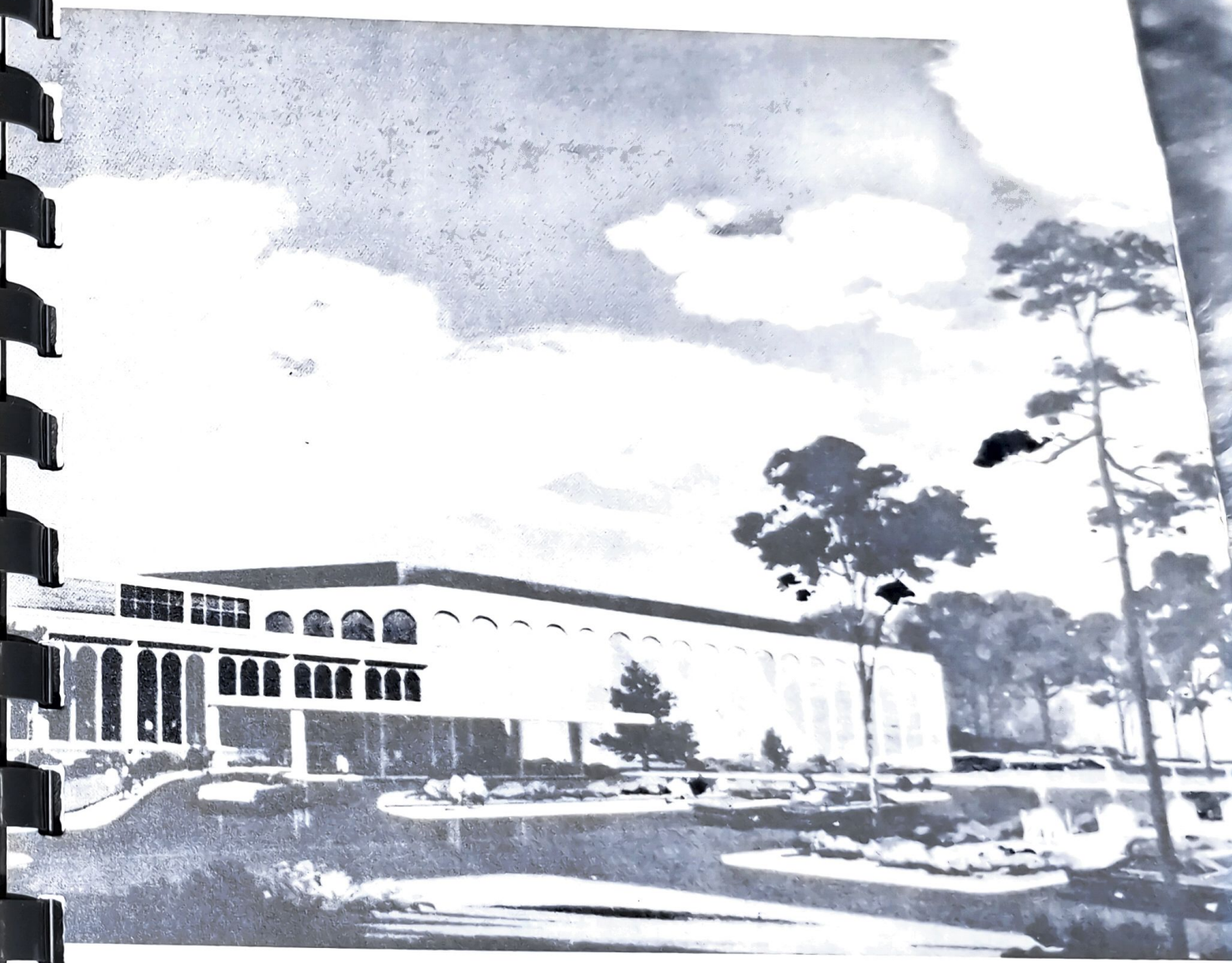
PLAYGROUNDS: See opposite page.

Savannah Civic And

Carefully designed to complement its coveted historic surroundings, the new Civic and Convention Center artfully combines accommodations for both business and pleasure. Its colonnaded facade joins two massive major buildings where an infinite variety of activities waits in the wings for the complex's approaching completion.

Convention Center

Magnetized by Savannah's colonial charm and celebrated heritage, large conventions may now set their sights on Savannah—where the very newest facilities will expedite their business while the very oldest traditions will enhance their pleasure. For information on bookings and activities contact the Director of the Savannah Civic Center.



The cradle of applied botany is here in Savannah!

The South's Post Card Tree

On February 25, 1937, a resolution of the Georgia General Assembly made the Live Oak Georgia's official tree. This beautiful tree flourishes along the coastal plains and islands where the first settlers of the State resided.

Flora and Fauna

And the hands that rocked the cradle nurtured America's first agricultural experimental garden, a ten-acre plot named Trustees' Garden in 1733 by James Edward Oglethorpe in honor of his fellow Englishmen who were the Trustees of the infant colony of Georgia.

Encouraged by the Apothecaries' Garden at Chelsea, England, Trustees' Garden flourished for ten years after the planting of living specimens of flowers, herbs, trees and vines from Europe, the Far East and the Caribbean Isles. In addition, many extraordinary native flora were discovered and carefully cultivated. From early experiments the South's "King Cotton" was born—sharing the limelight with the Georgia peach, the South's most famous fruit.

Listed on the following pages are the most common varieties of trees and plants which may be seen growing in Savannah and her coastal environs. Many of these, as descendants of the earliest colonial flora, thrive as living tributes to the diligence and imagination of Savannah's 18th century horticulturalists.

TREES

LIVE OAK (QUERCUS VIRGINIANA). Small, smooth oval leaves. Massive limbs, usually draped with Spanish Moss.

AMERICAN HOLLY (ILEX OPACA). Familiar to all. Red berries, shiny green leaves.

SAVANNAH HOLLY (ILEX SAVANNAH). A variety of American Holly discovered in Savannah and seen along coastal Georgia.

MAGNOLIA (MAGNOLIA GRANDIFLORA). Large tree. Glossy leaves. Creamy, fragrant blossoms.

SWEET BAY (MAGNOLIA VIRGINIANA). Miniature Magnolia. Leaves, oval. Small white flowers, exquisitely fragrant.

LONGLEAF PINE (PINUS PALUSTRIS). Needles longest in the world—up to 18 inches. Timber for heavy construction.

SLASH PINE (PINUS CARIBAEA). Straight, branchless trunk crowned abruptly with angled limbs, 10 inch needles.

SWEET GUM (LIQUIDAMBAR STYRACIFLUA). Star-shaped leaves, the size of maple leaves. Seed pods like thorny balls.

PALMETTO (SABAL PALMETTO). Branchless trunk with headdress of huge fan-like leaves.

REDBUD OR JUDAS TREE (CERCIS CANADENSIS). A small, sturdy, irregular tree. Afroth with pinkish-purple flowers in spring. Round, heart-shaped leaves.

CRAPE MYRTLE (LAGERSTROEMIA INDICA). Big shrub or little tree; counterpart of northern lilac. Blooms all summer. Lush six petaled 1½ inch flower like crinkled white, pink or purple crepe paper.

DOGWOOD (CORNUS FLORIDA). Boughs in flat irregular layers. White blossoms in spring.

MIMOSA (ALBIZIA JULIBRISSIN). Spreading branches, ferny foliage and "powder-puff" blooms.

OTHER TREES

BALD CYPRESS (TAXODIUM DISTICHUM).
CAMPHOR TREE (CINNAMOMUM CAMPHORA).
CHERRY LAUREL (PRUNUS CAROLINIANA).
GINKGO (GINKGO BILOBA).
JERUSALEM THORN (PARKINSONIA ACULEATA).
LOQUAT (ERIOBOTRYA JAPONICA).
PECAN (CARYA PECAN).
PERSIMMON (DIOSPYROS VIRGINIANA).

GROUNDCOVER PLANTS

BIG BLUE LIRIOPE (LIRIOPE MUSCARI). Grows in clumps. Dark, narrow evergreen leaves about 12 inches long. Summer spikes of violet flowers.

DWARF LILYTURF (MONDO JAPONICUS). About 4 inches tall. Forms broad expanses of fine textured leaves.

MOSS PHLOX or THRIFT (PHLOX SUBULATA). Creeping plants 2 to 3 inches high. Early spring blooms of rose, white, lilac, white with rosy eye, and other combinations.

CARPET BUGLE (AJUGA REPTANS). Evergreen foliage with a purplish tinge, about 3 inches high.

SHRUBS

CAMELLIAS (Many varieties). Colorful from early fall till late spring. Coastal garden favorites.

AZALEAS (INDICA AZALEAS). Most common are "Formosa," "G. L. Taber" and "Fielder's White." Evergreen foliage. Flamboyant petals bloom from early spring to mid-April.

COMMON OLEANDER (NERIUM OLEANDER). May grow to twenty feet; always shrubby looking. Long, gray-green leaves. Summer flowers in single or double clusters of white, pink or rose.

BAMBOO (BAMBUSA MULTIPLEX). "Clump-type." Often 15 feet in height. Graceful, slender stems.

PITTOSPORUM (PITTOSPORUM TOBIRA). Rugged bush. Bright, evergreen foliage. Spring clusters of white or dull yellow flowers. Commonly used for hedges. (P. T. VARIEGATA). Cream and grey-green foliage.

PODOCARPUS OR YEW (PODOCARPUS MACROPHYLLUS MAKI). Dark evergreen 2 to 3 inch narrow leaves; fine to medium texture.

SPANISH BAYONET (YUCCA ALOIFOLIA). Coarse-textured, sword-like, evergreen leaves. Bold white plumes of summer flowers.

PYRACANTHA OR FIRETHORN (PYRACANTHA KOIDZUMI or P. FORMOSANA). Extremely popular and versatile. Dense, twiggy, irregular bush. Flat clusters of white spring flowers. Heavy bunches of bright red fruits in fall and winter.

OTHER COMMON SHRUBS

CAPE PLUMBAGO (PLUMBAGO CAPENSIS).

FEIJOA or PINEAPPLE GUAVA (FEIJOA SELLOWIANA).

GOLDENWONDER SENNA (CASSIA SPLENDIDA).

HYDRANGEA (HYDRANGEA MACROPHYLLA).

JAPANESE PRIVET (LIGUSTRUM JAPONICUM).

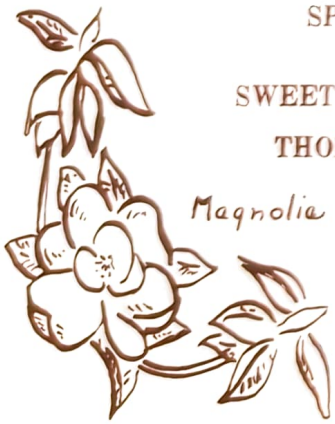
LITTLELEAF JAPANESE BOX (BOXUS MICROPHYLLA JAPONICA).

SHRUBALTHAEA (HIBISCUS SYRIACUS).

SPIREA (S. PRUNIFOLIA, S. THUNBERGI, S. CANTONIENSIS, S. VAN HOUTTEI).

SWEET VIBURNUM (VIRBURNUM ODORATISSIMUM).

THORNY ELAEAGNUS (ELAEAGNUS PUNGENS).



VINES

GOLDEN TRUMPET or CAT'S CLAW CREEPER (DOXANTHA UNGUISCATI). Small evergreen leaflets occurring in opposite pairs and small tendrils ending in three small hooks or claws.

CLIMBING FIG (FICUS PUMILA). Clothes any wall with a close fitting mat of greenery.

CAROLINA JESSAMINE (GELSEMIUM SEMPERVIRENS). Small and fine textured foliage. Bright golden masses of trumpet-like spring flowers.

ALGERIAN IVY (HEDERA CANARIENSIS). Large, lush foliage, vigorous growth.

BANKSIA or LADY BANKS ROSE (ROSA BANKSIAE). Fine textured evergreen foliage, practically thornless. Creamy yellow flowers.

CHEROKEE ROSE (ROSA LAEVIGATA). State flower of Georgia. Rich, glossy, semi-evergreen foliage and single white flowers. Long blooming season in spring and short in fall.

CHINESE WISTERIA (WISTERIA SINENSIS). Coarse in foliage texture and habit of growth. Large flowers, white, pink or purple.

OTHER VINES

CONFEDERATE or STAR JASMINE (TRACHELOSPERMUM JASMINOIDES).

CORAL VINE (ANTIGONON LEPTOPUS).

ENGLISH IVY (HEDERA HELIX).

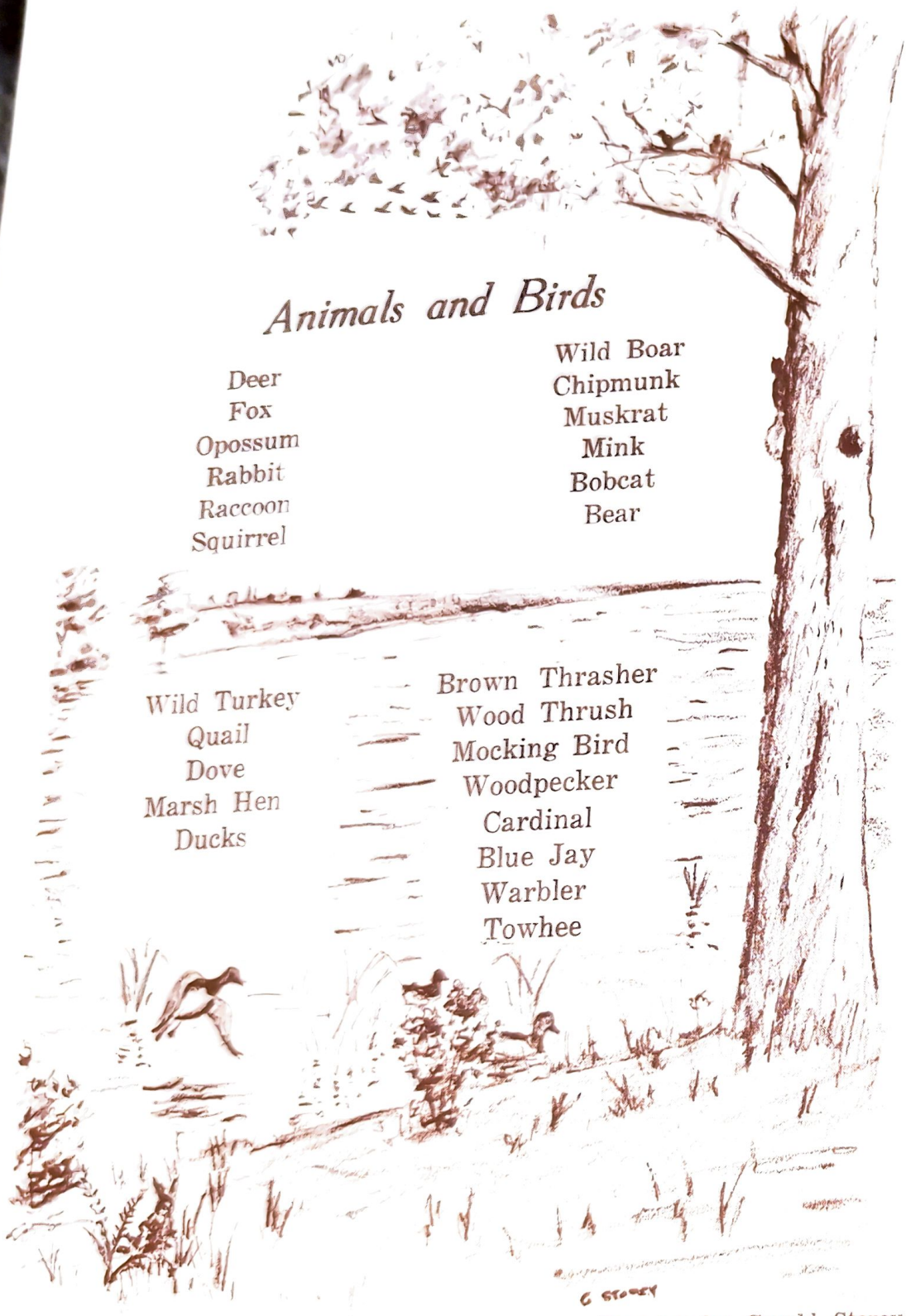
PASSION FLOWER (PASSIFLORA INCARNATA).

PERIWINKLE (VINCA MINOR).

SOUTHERN SMILAX (SMILAX LANCEOLATA).

SWEETAUTUMN CLEMATIS (CLEMATIS PANICULATA).

SPANISH MOSS. A graceful herb, a "changeling" of the pineapple family. Not a true moss but an air plant, using trees and telegraph wires for support. Has many long, slender moss-like stems which bear small leaves and yellow flowers.



Animals and Birds

Deer
Fox
Opossum
Rabbit
Raccoon
Squirrel

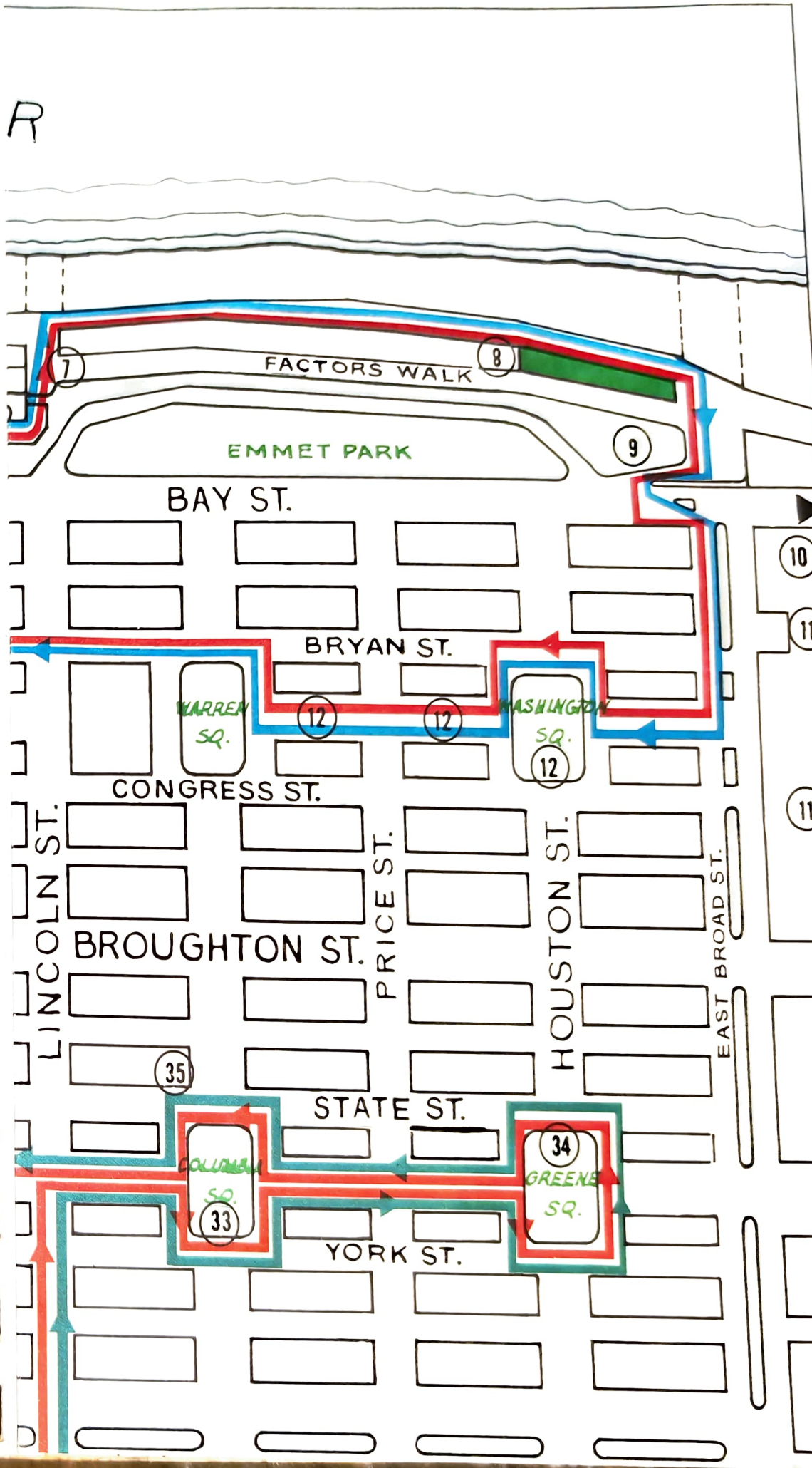
Wild Boar
Chipmunk
Muskrat
Mink
Bobcat
Bear

Wild Turkey
Quail
Dove
Marsh Hen
Ducks

Brown Thrasher
Wood Thrush
Mocking Bird
Woodpecker
Cardinal
Blue Jay
Warbler
Towhee

–Drawing by Gerald Storey

R


FACTORS WALK
EMMET PARK
BAY ST.
BRYAN ST.
WARREN SQ.
WASHINGTON SQ.
CONGRESS ST.
LINCOLN ST.
BROUGHTON ST.
PRICE ST.
HOUSTON ST.
EAST BROAD ST.
STATE ST.
COLUMBIA SQ.
GREENE SQ.
YORK ST.
TO FT. JACKSON, ETC.
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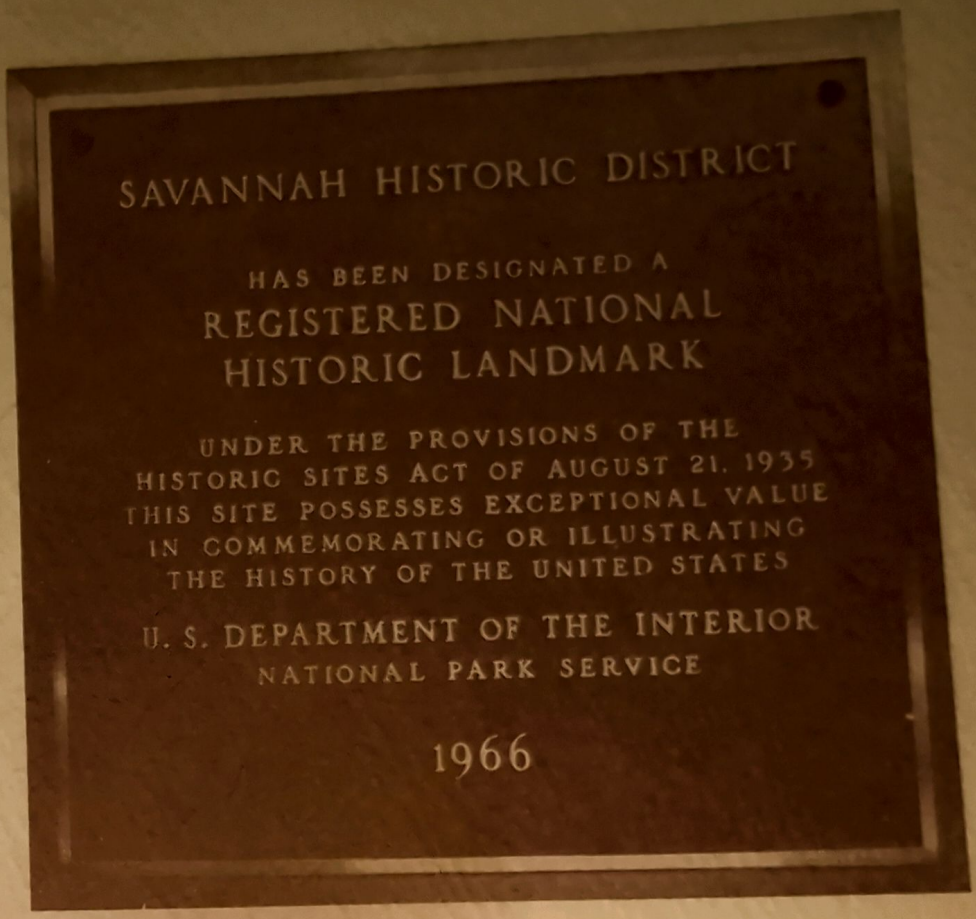
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Georgia's Colonial Capital

Founded in 1733